Vol.28

ROKUDA NOBORU

F
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A NEW BEGINNING

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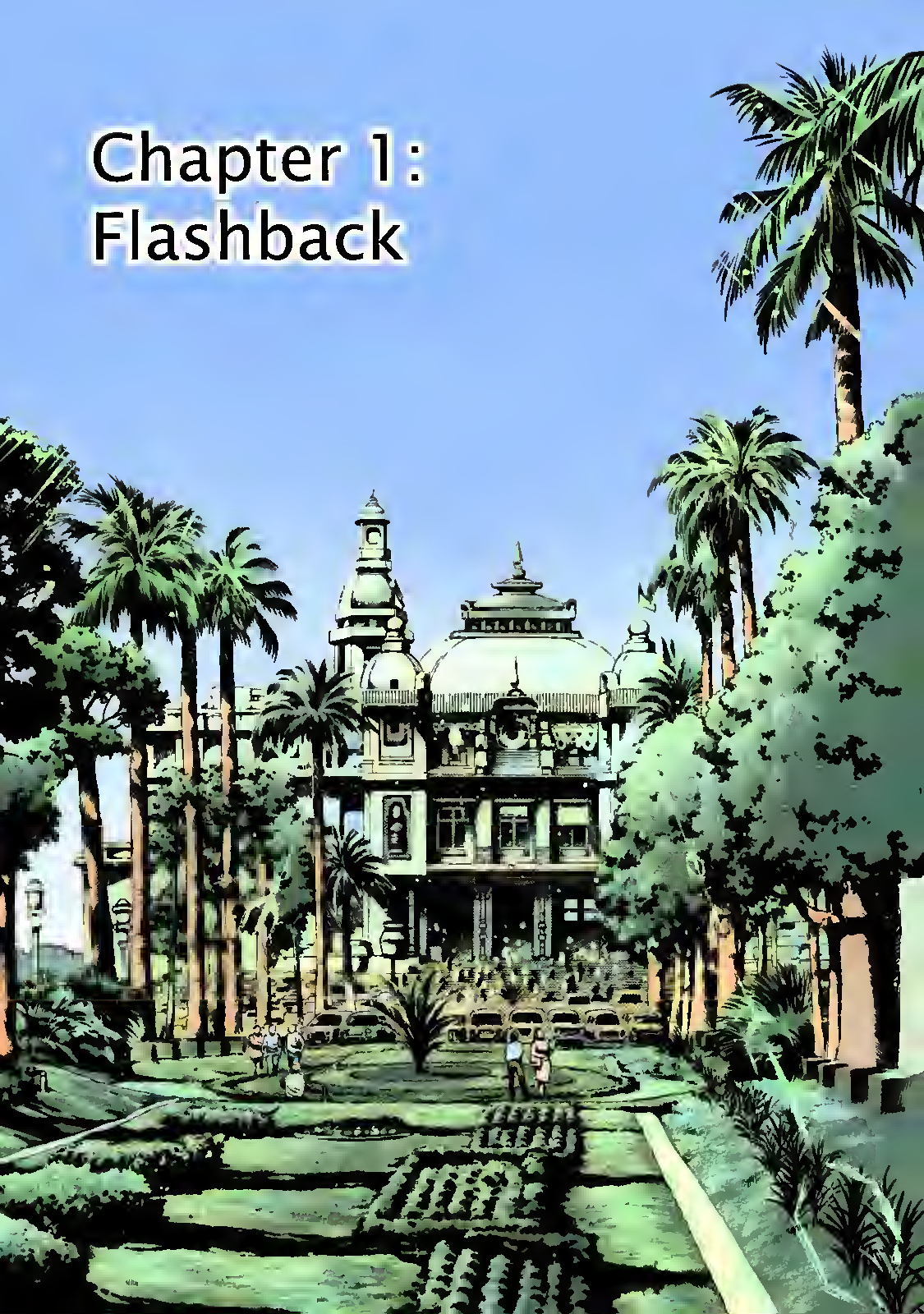
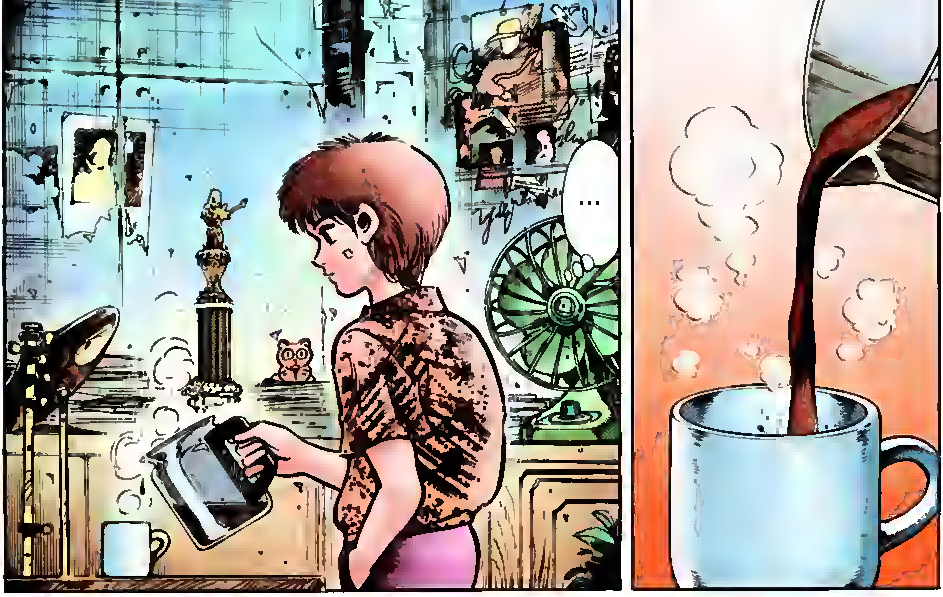
Chapter 1: Flashback

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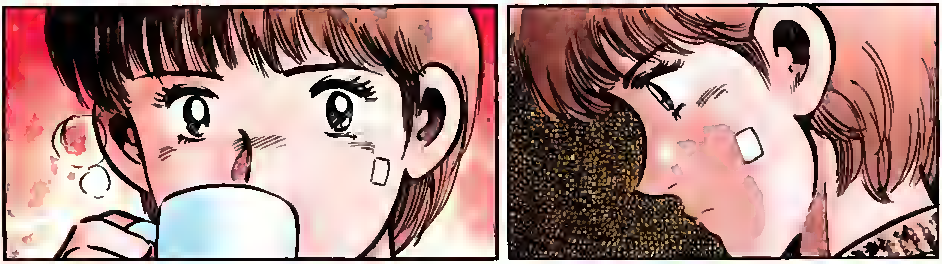
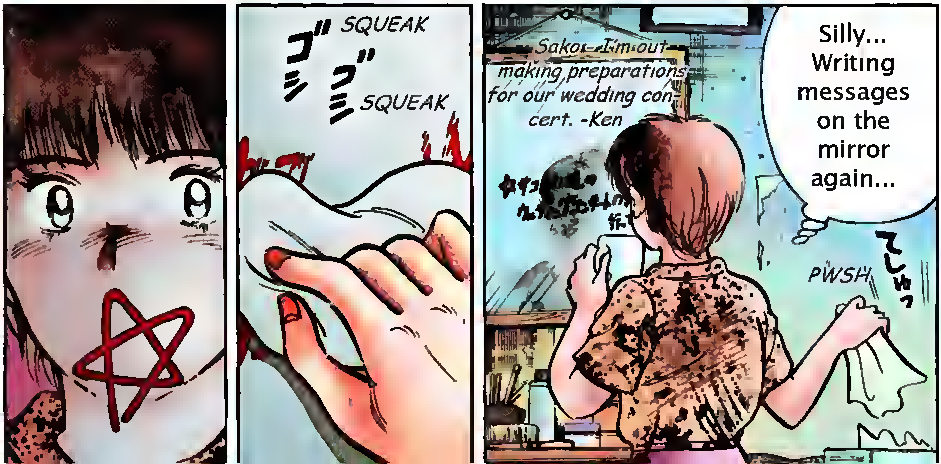
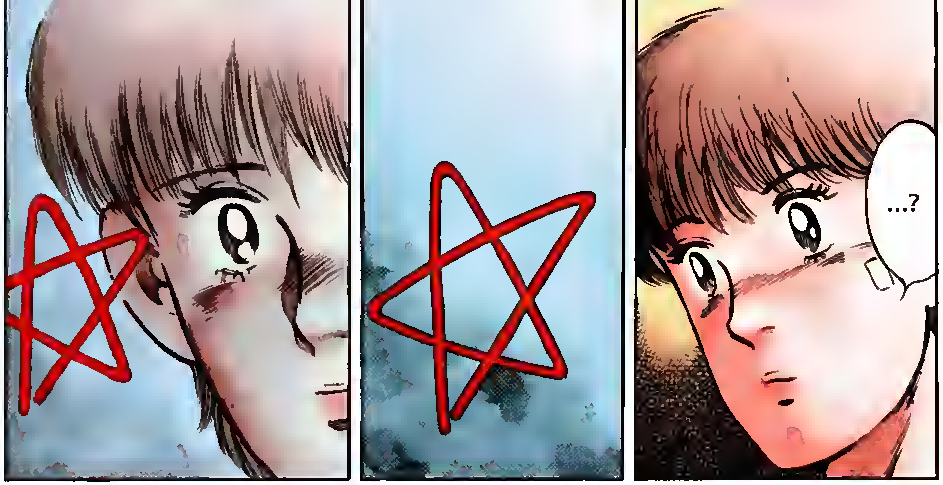
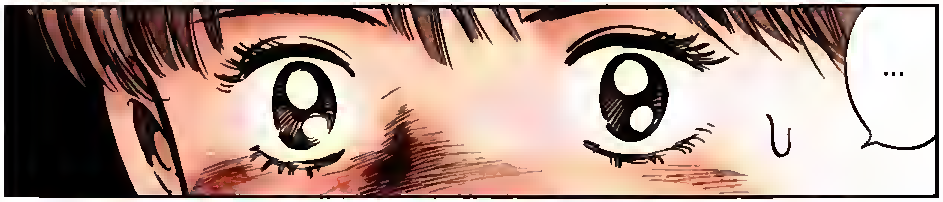


☆サコ オレ達の
ウェディングコンサートの打ち合わせに
行ってくる♡健
Soko - I'm out making preparations for our wedding concert. -Ken


SQUEAK
ゴシゴシ
SQUEAK
Soko - I'm out making preparations for our wedding concert. -Ken
Silly... Writing messages on the mirror again...
PWSH
てしゅっ


...?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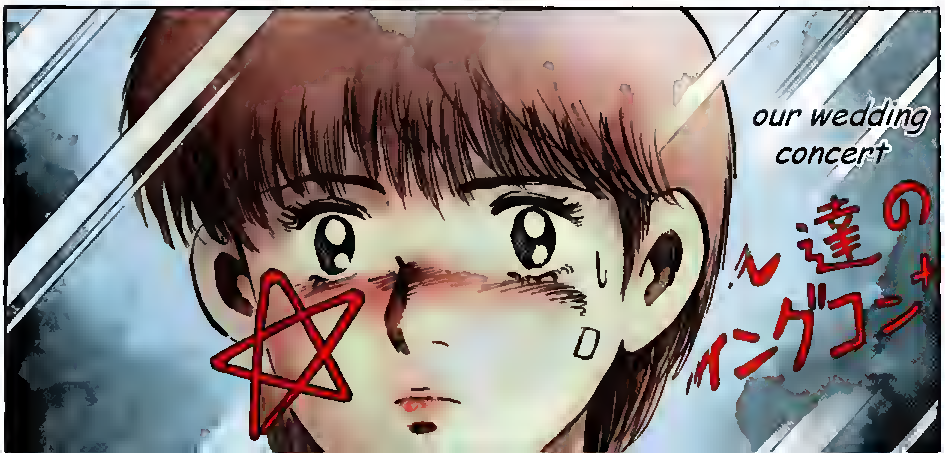
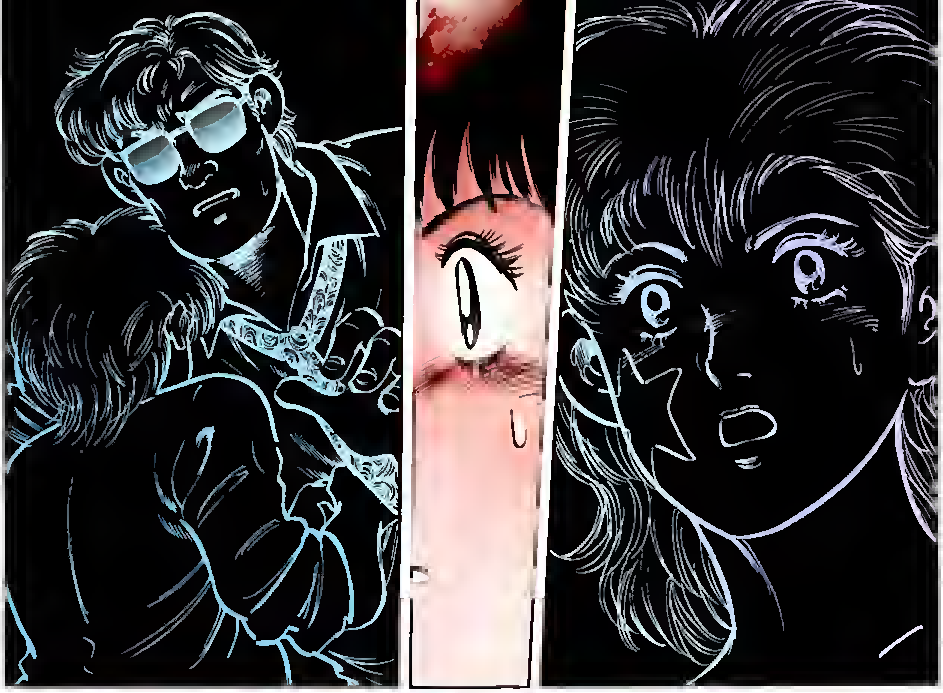
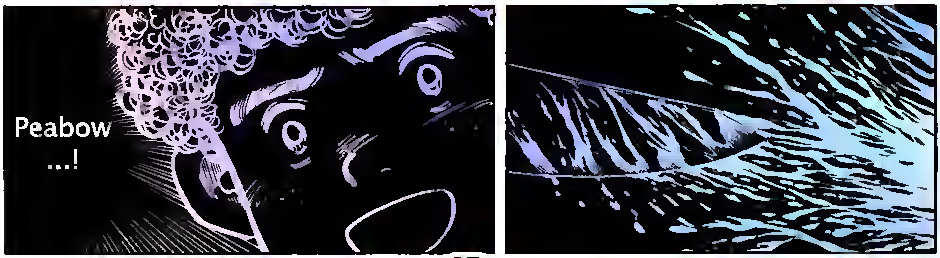
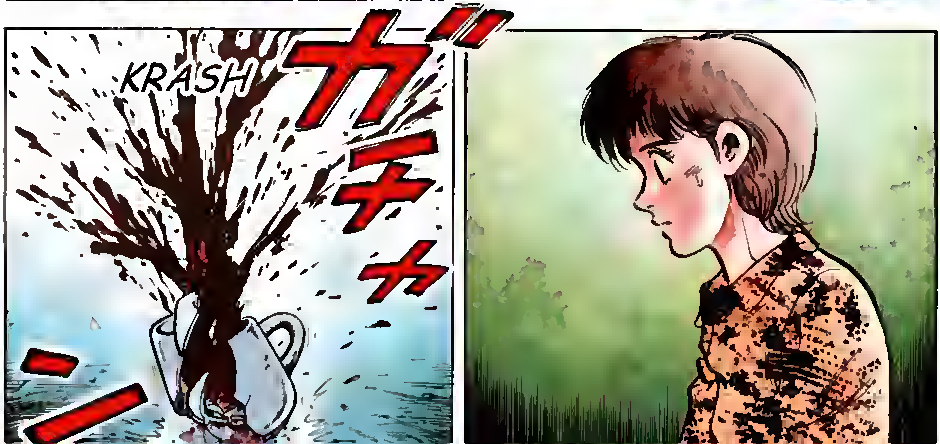
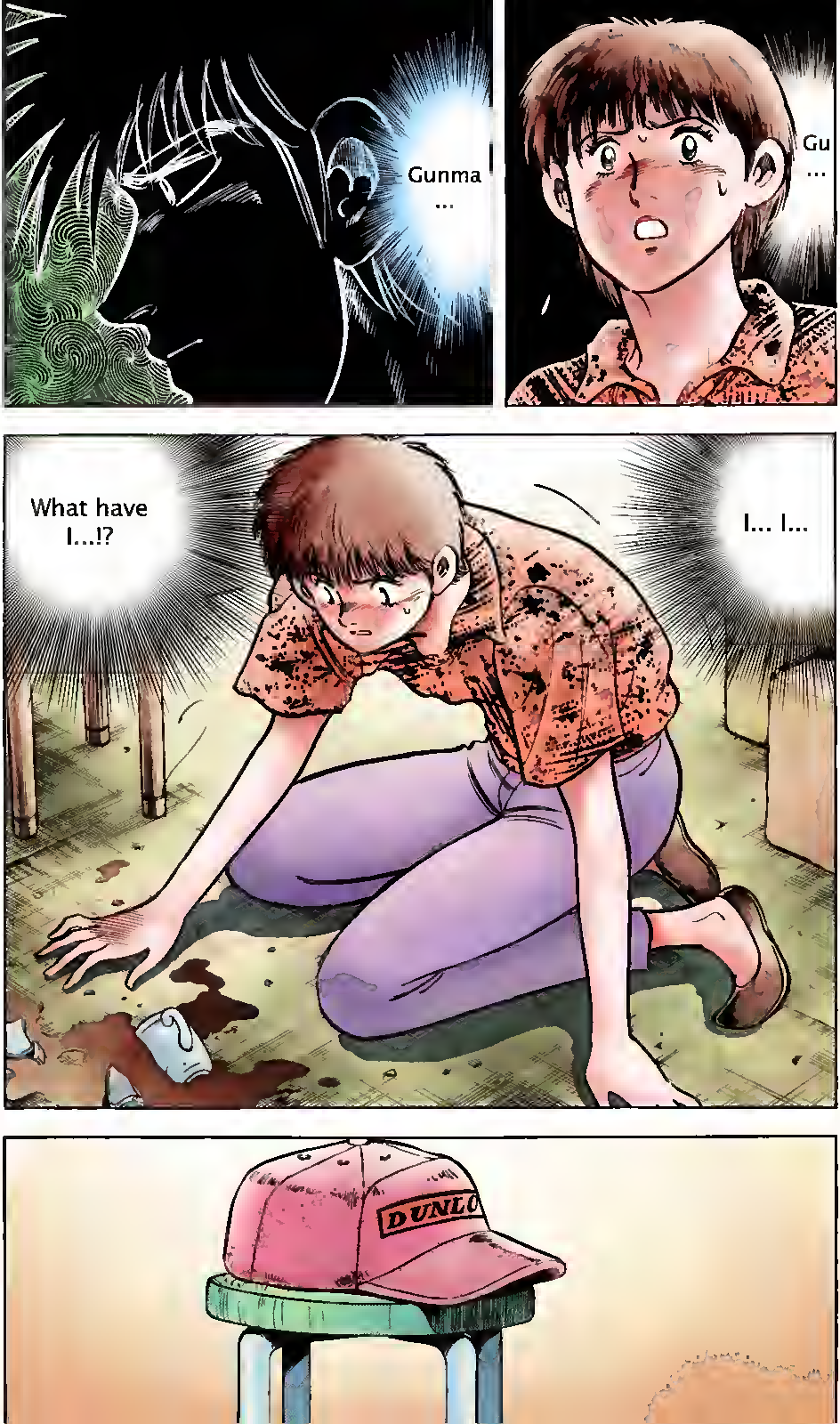

our wedding
concert
達の
イングコン

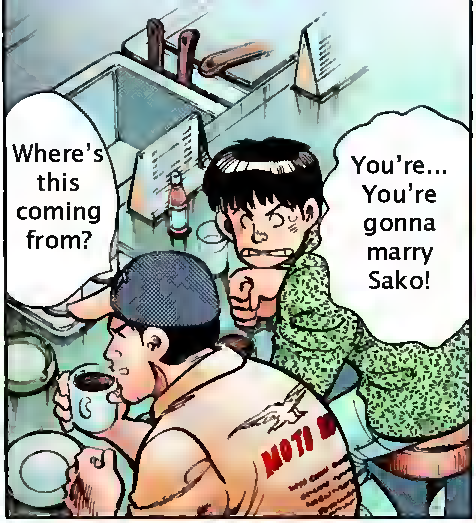


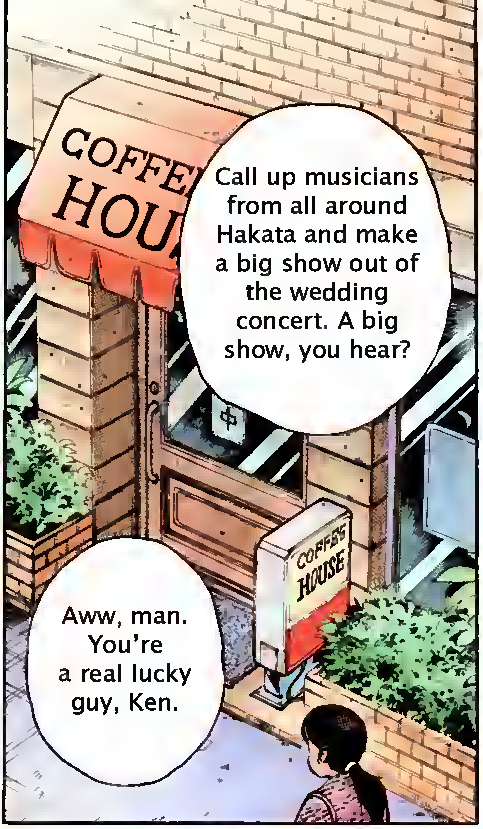
George
...!?
G...

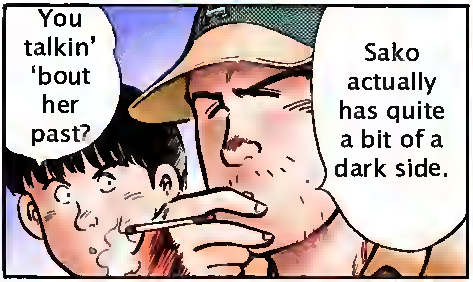

Peabow
...!

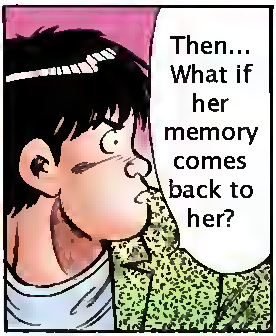

KRASH
ガチャ
ン

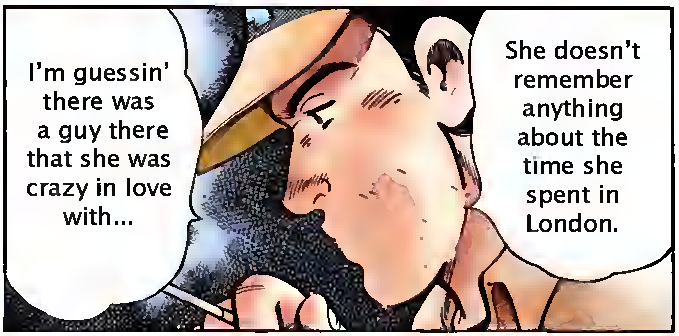

Gunma
...
Gu
...
What have I...!?
I... I...
DUNLO


Where's this coming from?
You're... You're gonna marry Sako!

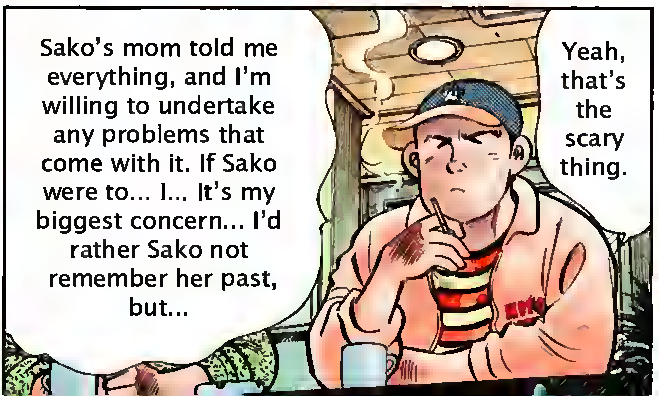

COFFEE HOUSE
Call up musicians from all around Hakata and make a big show out of the wedding concert. A big show, you hear?
Aww, man. You're a real lucky guy, Ken.

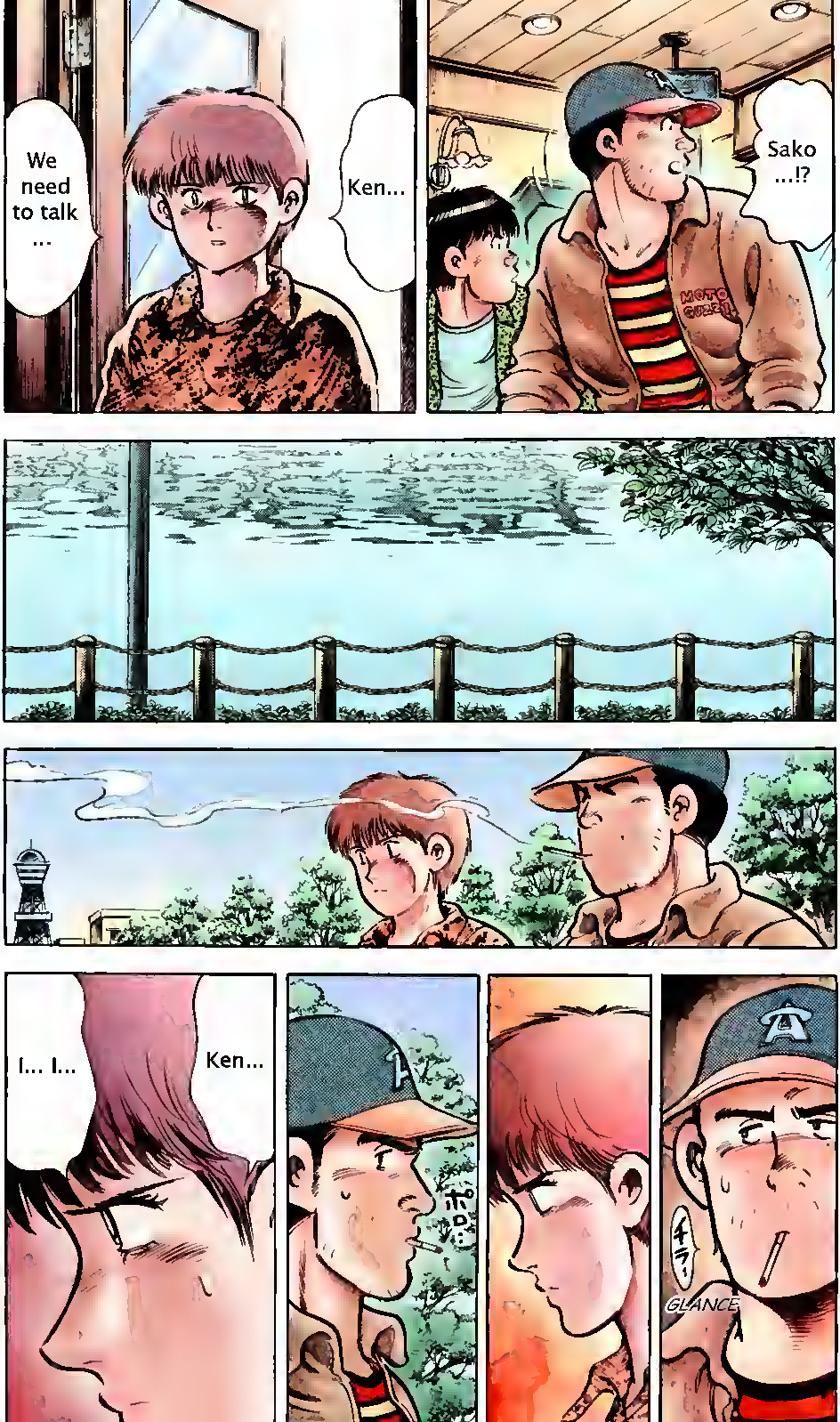

You talkin' 'bout her past?
Sako actually has quite a bit of a dark side.


Then... What if her memory comes back to her?

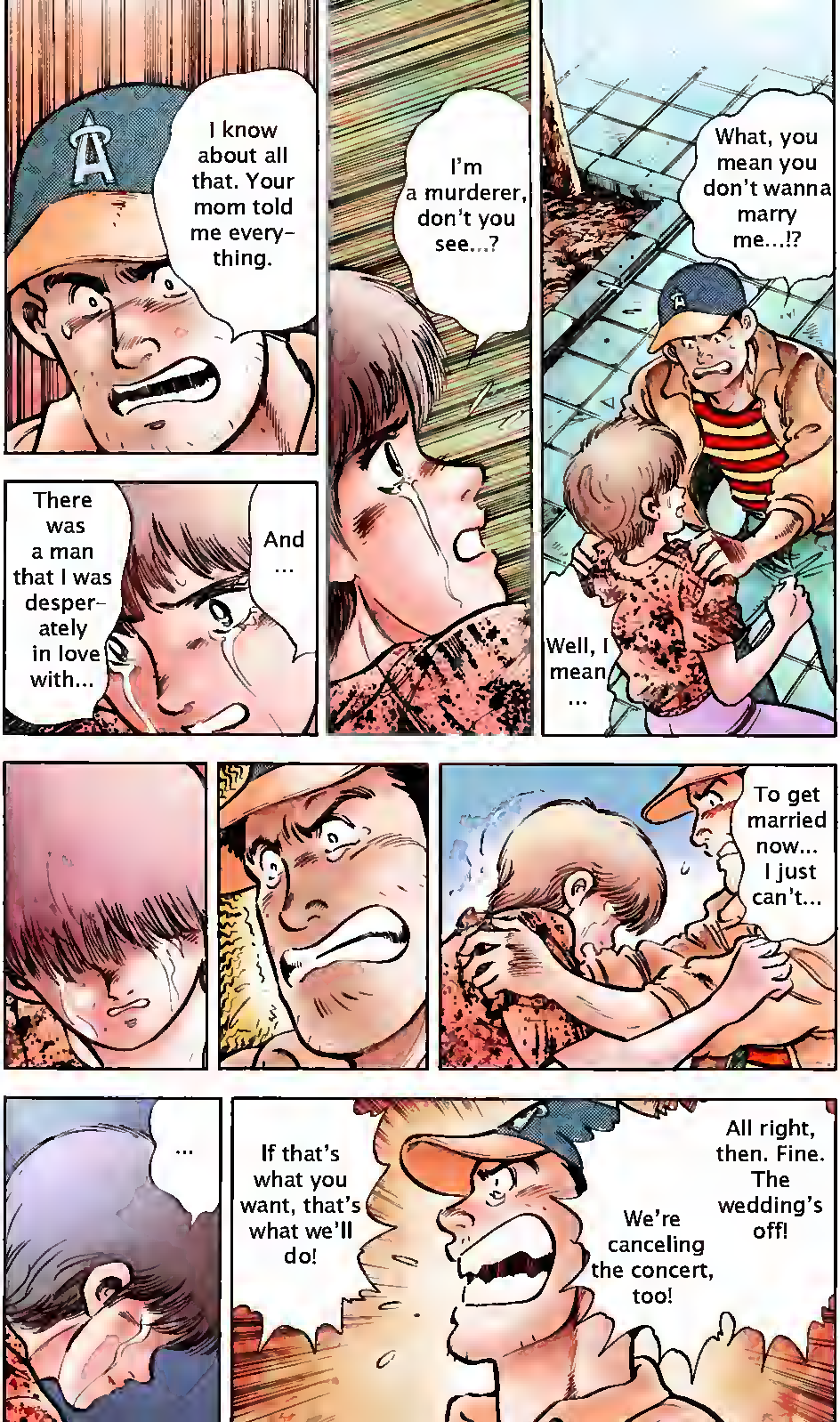

I'm guessin' there was a guy there that she was crazy in love with...
She doesn't remember anything about the time she spent in London.

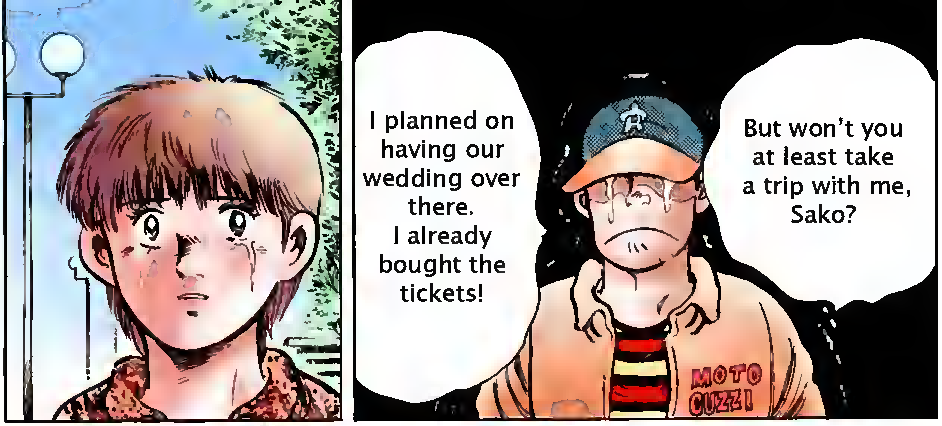
GATUNK
!


Sako's mom told me everything, and I'm willing to undertake any problems that come with it. If Sako were to... I... It's my biggest concern... I'd rather Sako not remember her past, but...
Yeah, that's the scary thing.

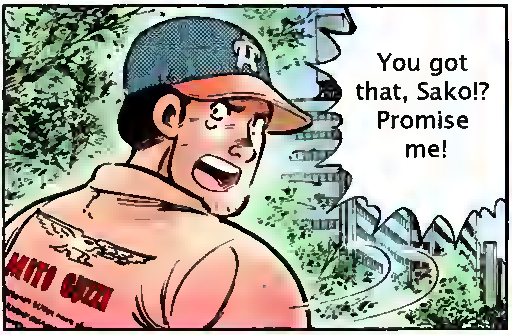

We need to talk ...
Ken...
Sako ...!?
I... I...
Ken...
ポ
ポ
D
イラ
GLANCE

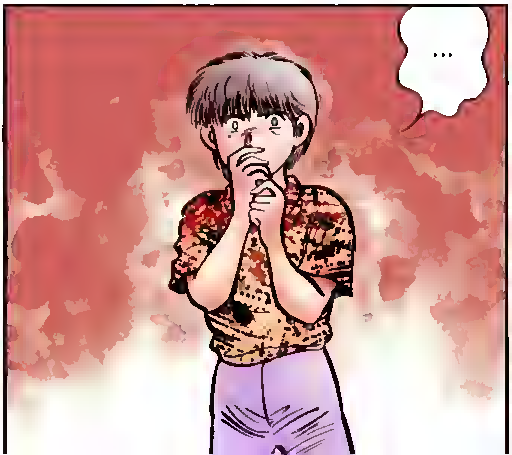
...
Ken... I...
Oh, Sako, the wedding concert's gonna be incredible!
We're gonna get musicians from all around Hakata together and make a huge party out of it!
I'm... I'm a murderer...
I...
I'm glad it happened before we got married...
Your memory... It all came back to you, huh?
I would have become such a burden to you...
If it had been after the wedding...
Sako...


I know about all that. Your mom told me everything.
I'm a murderer, don't you see...?
What, you mean you don't wanna marry me...!?
There was a man that I was desperately in love with...
And ...
Well, I mean ...
To get married now... I just can't...
...
If that's what you want, that's what we'll do!
We're canceling the concert, too!
All right, then. Fine. The wedding's off!


I planned on having our wedding over there. I already bought the tickets!
But won't you at least take a trip with me, Sako?
MOTO GUZZI

!?
Gunma Akagi, the Japanese driver, is gonna be racing!
We're going to Monaco! It's the day of the final race of the F1 Grand Prix!


You got that, Sako!? Promise me!
MOTO GUZZI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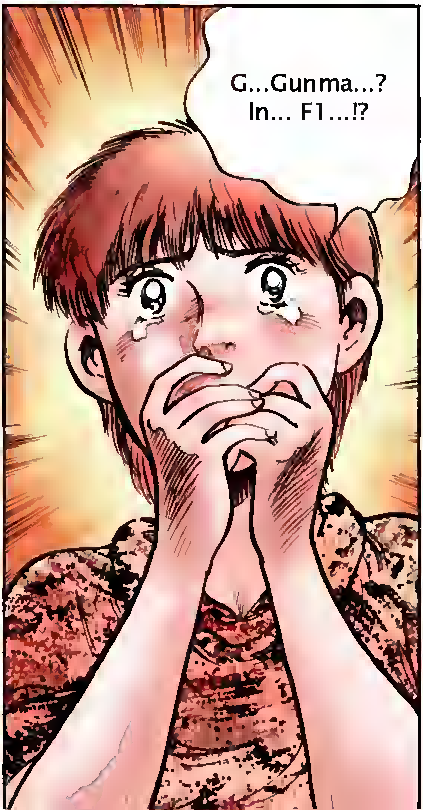
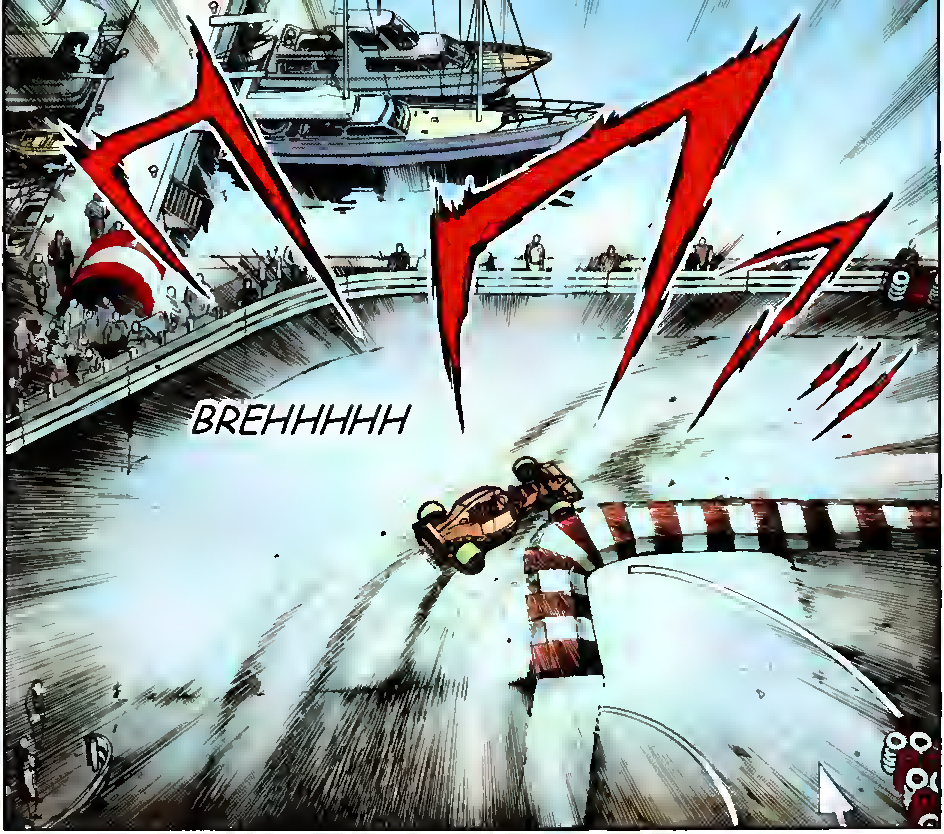
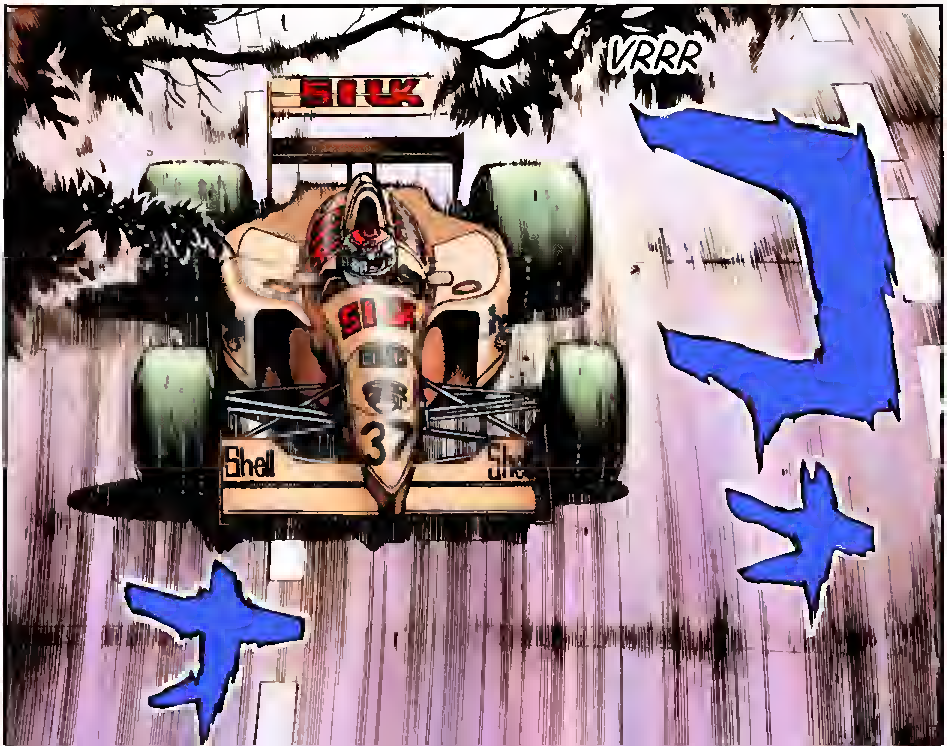
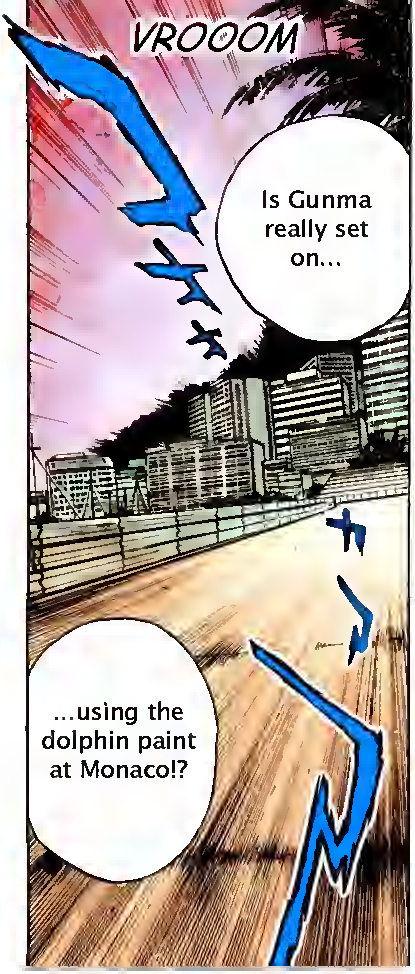
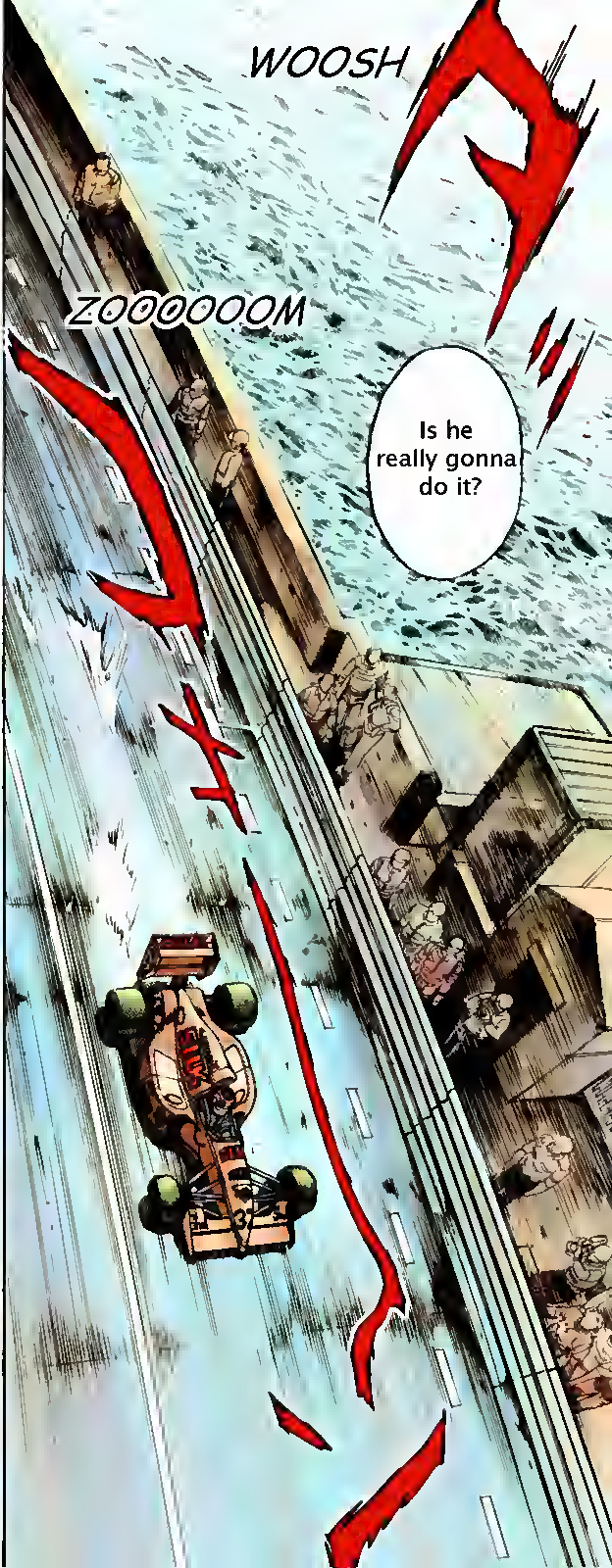
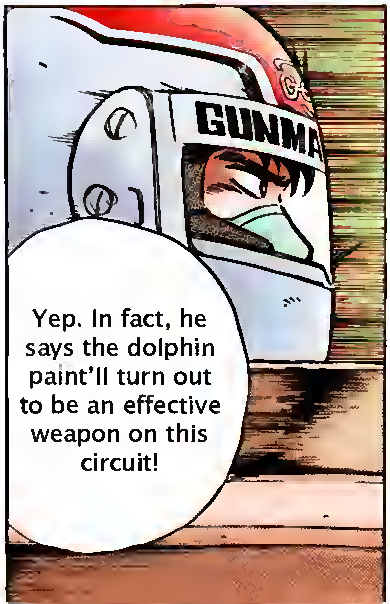

G...Gunma...? In... F1...!?

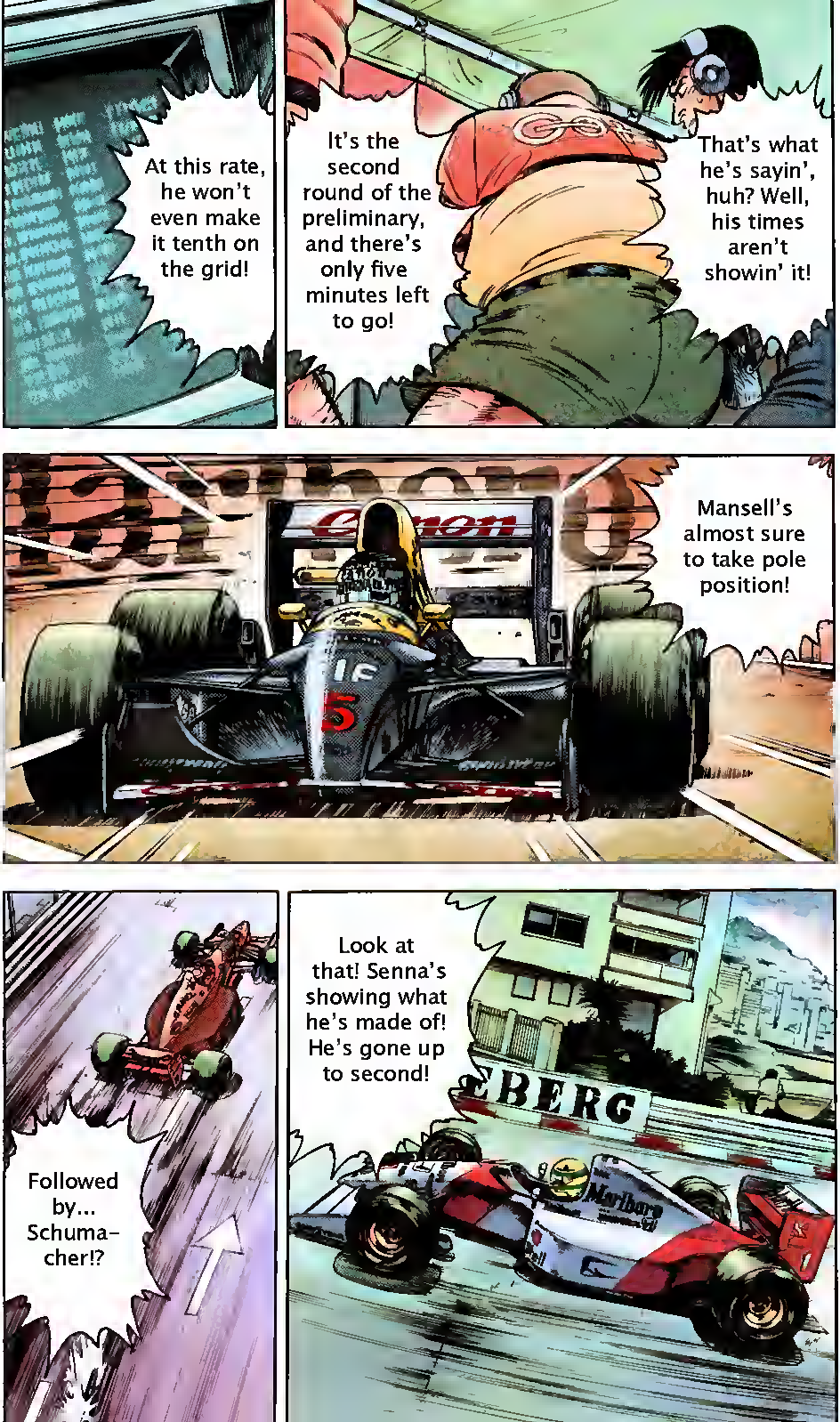

BREHHHHH

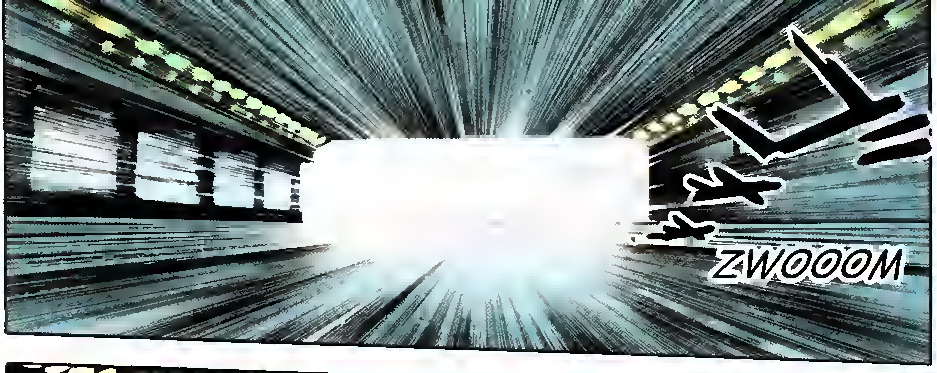

VRRR
51K
Shell
3


VROOOM
Is Gunma really set on...
...using the dolphin paint at Monaco!?

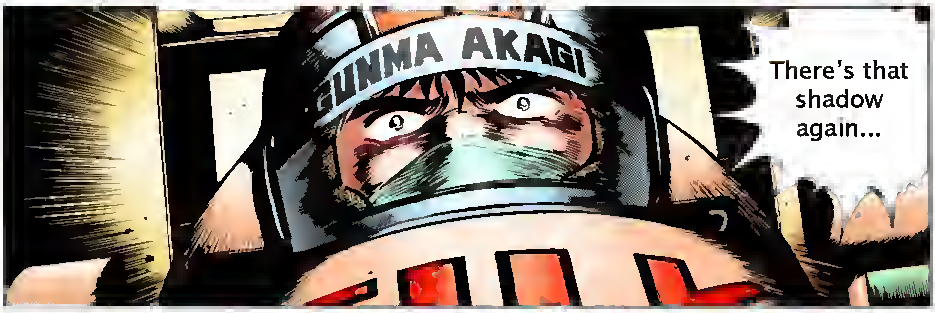

WOOSH
ZOOOOOOM
Is he really gonna do it?


GUNMA
Yep. In fact, he says the dolphin paint'll turn out to be an effective weapon on this circuit!


At this rate, he won't even make it tenth on the grid!
It's the second round of the preliminary, and there's only five minutes left to go!
That's what he's sayin', huh? Well, his times aren't showin' it!
Canon
5
Mansell's almost sure to take pole position!
Followed by... Schuma-cher!?
Look at that! Senna's showing what he's made of! He's gone up to second!
BERG
Marlboro

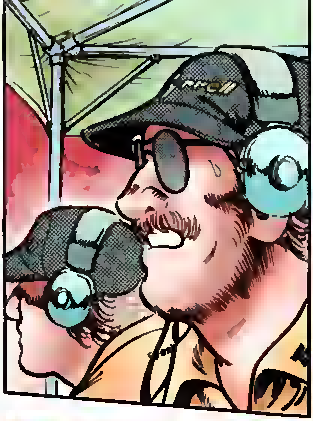

ZWOOOM

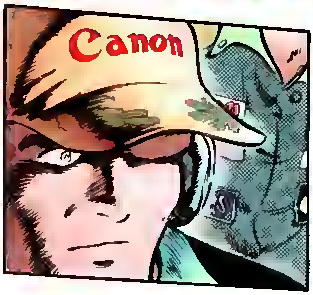
FOOM

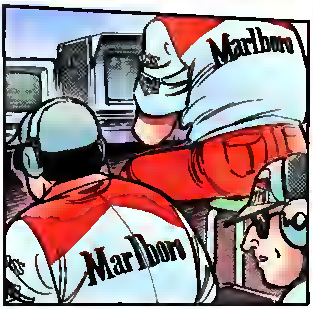

GUNMA AKAGI
There's that shadow again...

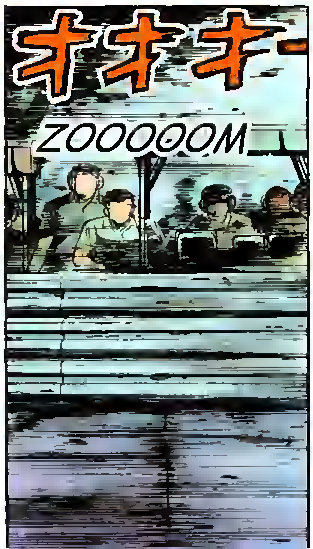
Whoooa!

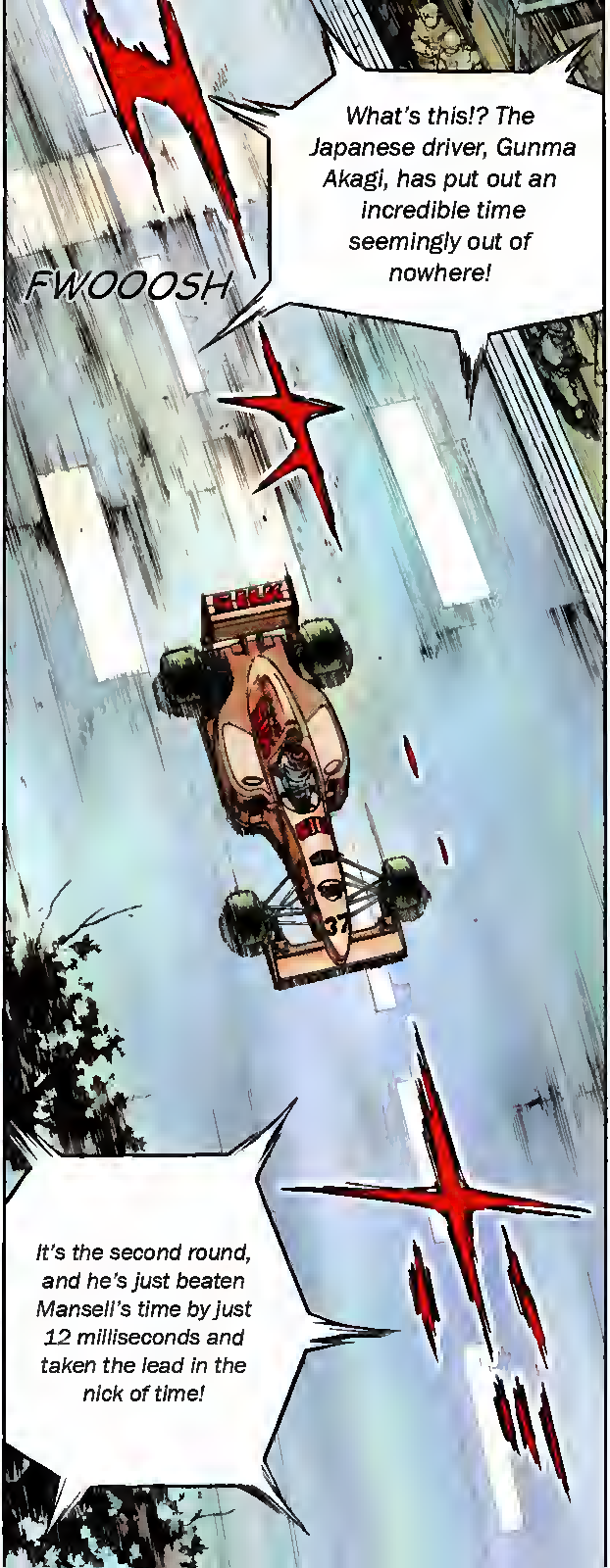
SILK



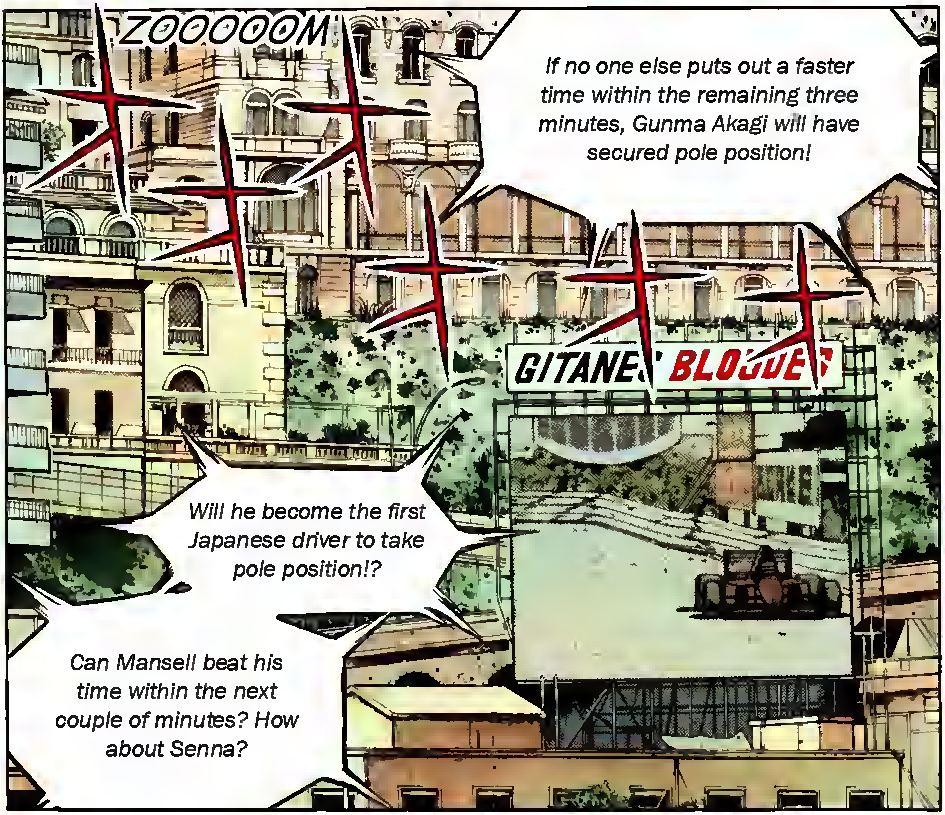

Canon

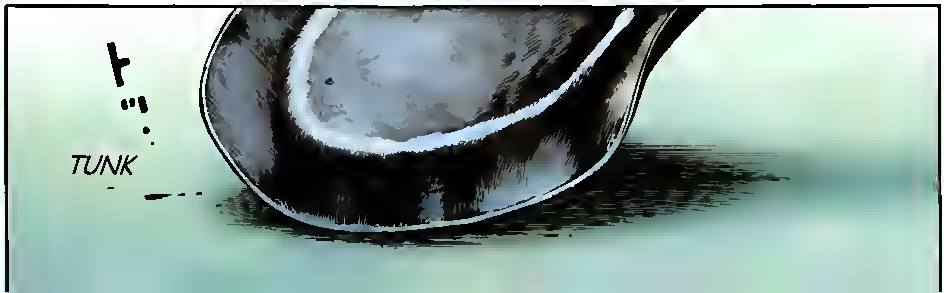

Marlboro
Marlboro


ZOOOOOM


FWOOOSH
What's this!? The Japanese driver, Gunma Akagi, has put out an incredible time seemingly out of nowhere!
It's the second round, and he's just beaten Mansell's time by just 12 milliseconds and taken the lead in the nick of time!

Uh... Wow...
GULP
Wh... Whoa...
...

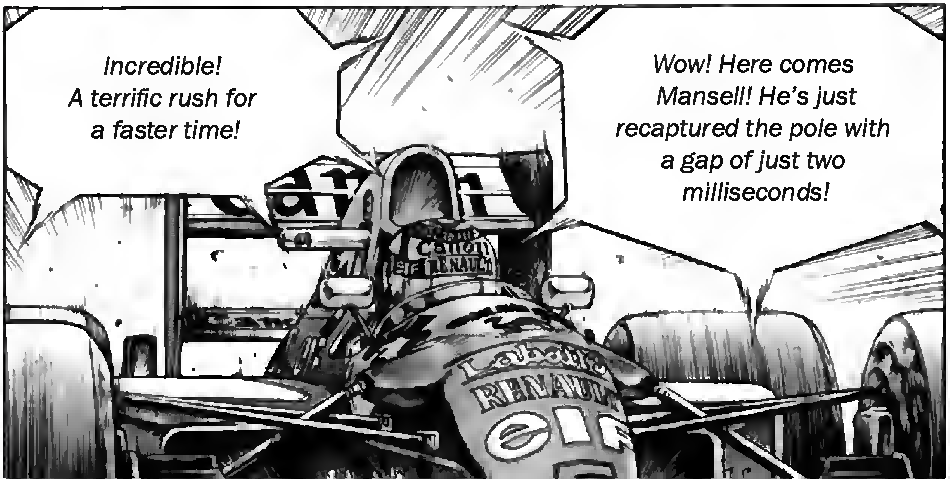

ZOOOOOM
If no one else puts out a faster time within the remaining three minutes, Gunma Akagi will have secured pole position!
GITANE BLOGUE
Will he become the first Japanese driver to take pole position!?
Can Mansell beat his time within the next couple of minutes? How about Senna?


TUNK

FLAP
DUM
METAMORPHOSE
RENAULT

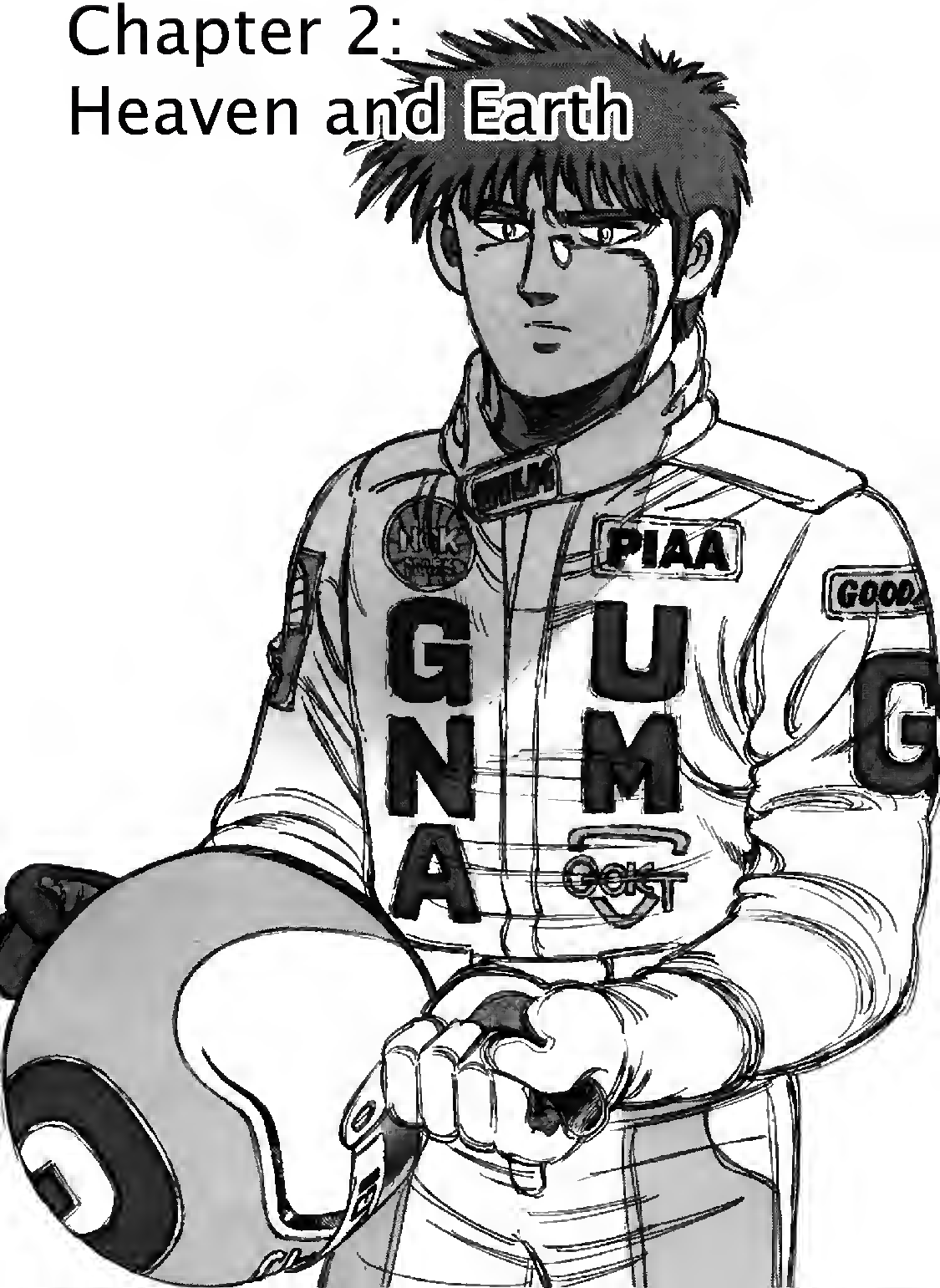
Moreno is putting out some crappy times... He'll end up 15th or 16th on grid.
Hmph...

Fool...
Starting today, you're no longer of any use to anyone.

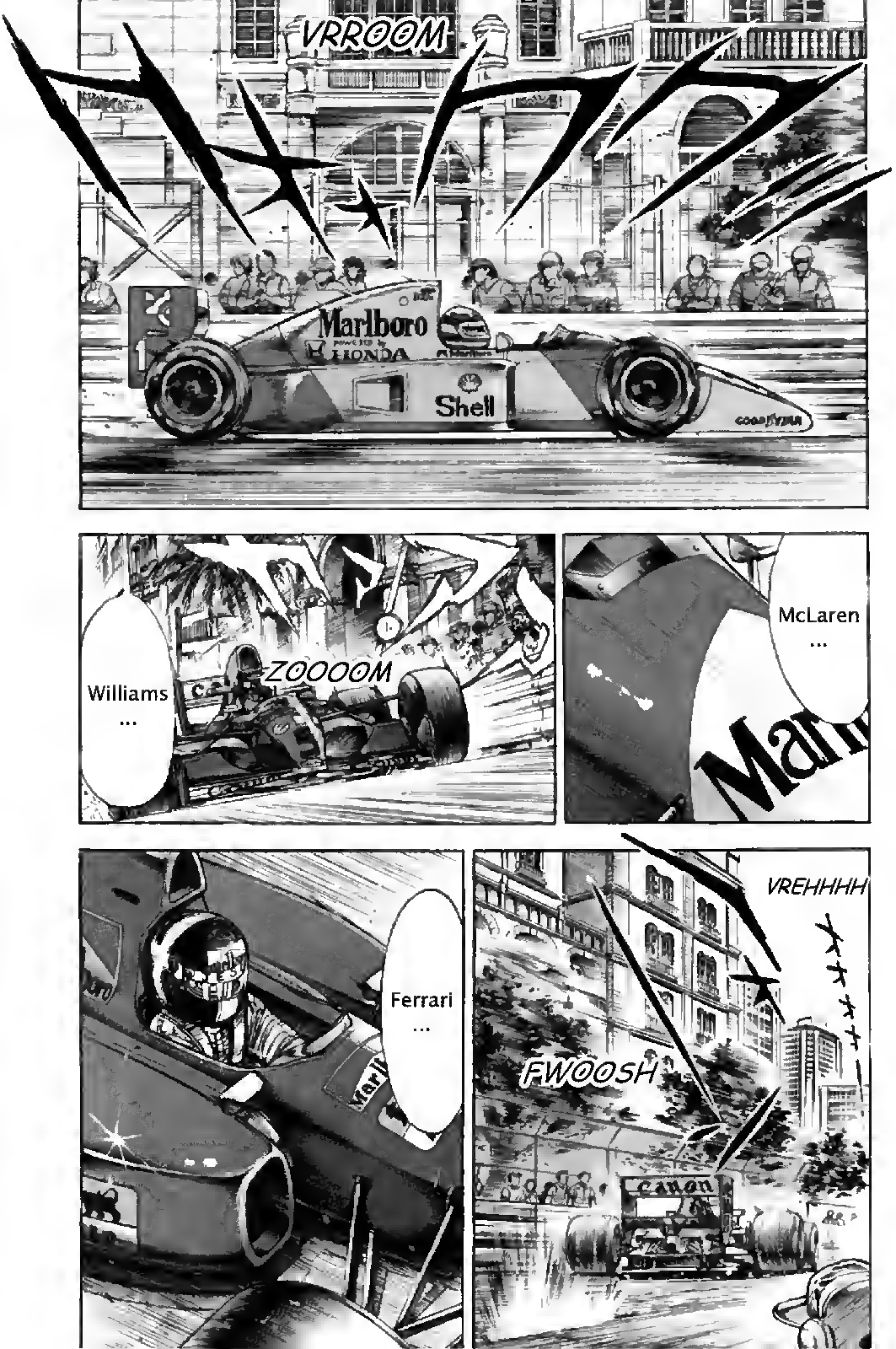

Incredible! A terrific rush for a faster time!
Wow! Here comes Mansell! He's just recaptured the pole with a gap of just two milliseconds!
RENAULT

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Junko ...
...
Ugh...
No... I'm okay... I'm okay, Auntie...
Are you okay, Junko? Should I call the doctor?
I just hope he makes it...
There are still long gaps between her contractions... But they're going to get more frequent from here on...
I'm wor- ried...
It's not time yet...

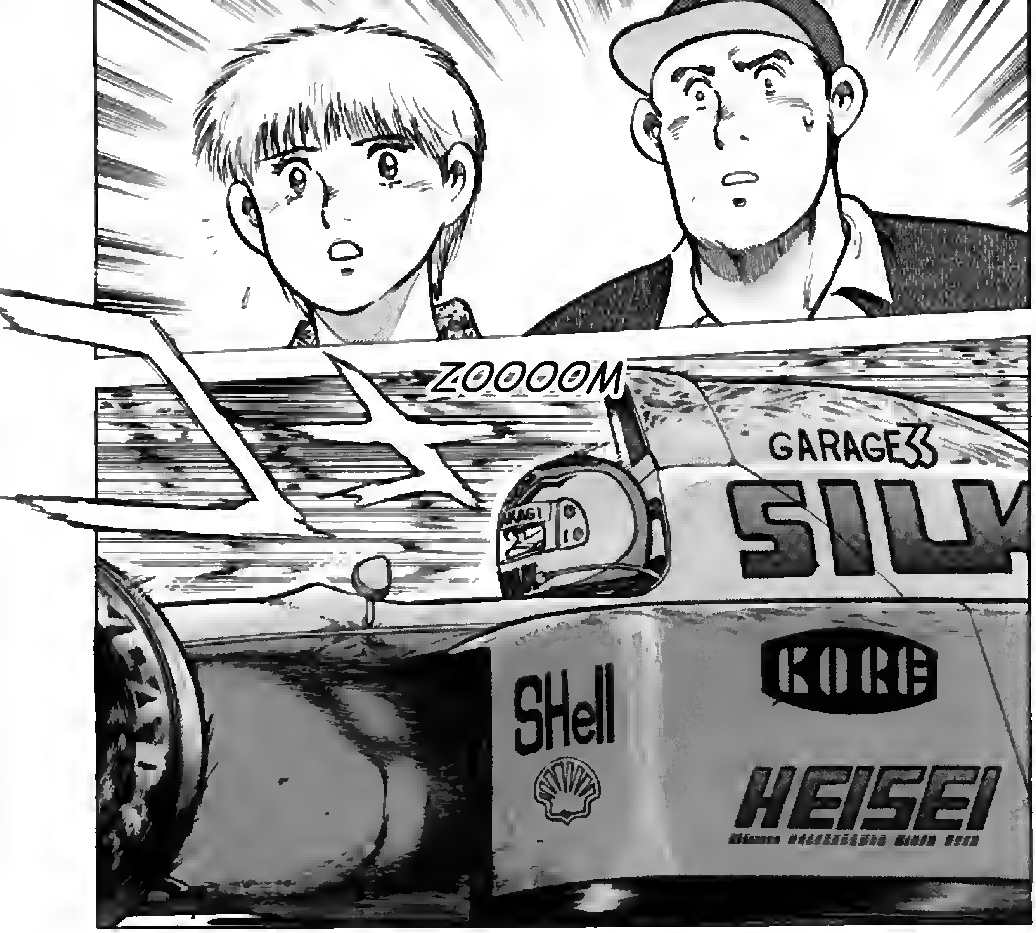
Chapter 2: Heaven and Earth



May 31, 1992
Monaco Grand Prix
Final


VRROOM
Marlboro
HONDA
Shell
ZOOOOM
Williams
...
McLaren
...
Ferrari
...
VREHHHH
FWOOSH
Canon

Hey Paul!
PAT
This is sweet! Not quite the same when you watch it on TV huh!?
Tyr-rell ...
Jor-dan ...
Lo-tus ...
Lar-rous-se...
No! I Japanese! No Paul! You understand?
Hahaha! Guess I look like a wes-terner or something.
Paul! Good work!
Huh?
Gunma's Paul!
No! You're Paul!
LOOK!
Paul... Oh! Pole! Pole position...!
ZOOOOM
32
Shell
Shell

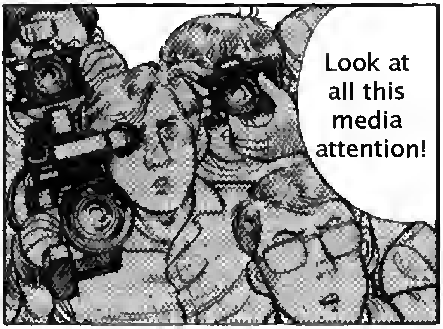

ZOOOOM
GARAGE33
SILK
AKAGI
SHell
KORE
HEISEI

Gunma Akagi's got pole position! Great, huh!?
Gunma...!

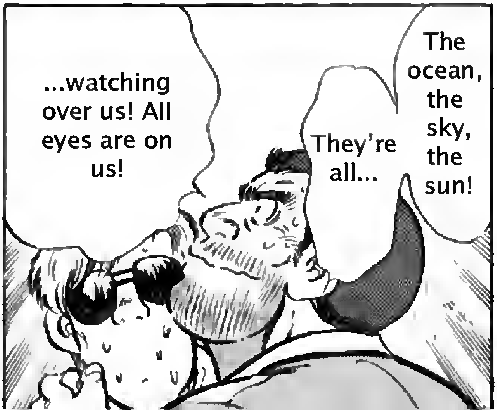
I just can't believe it...!
WOO
HOO
WOO
HOO
Gunma... You...
ヒロヒロ
Errrm...

YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
We took pole position! First ever for a Japanese racer!
But he beat Nigel Mansell's time by 0.02 seconds!
It really looked like it could have gone either way at yesterday's preliminary...

HA HA
And listen to that crowd roar!


Look at all this media attention!

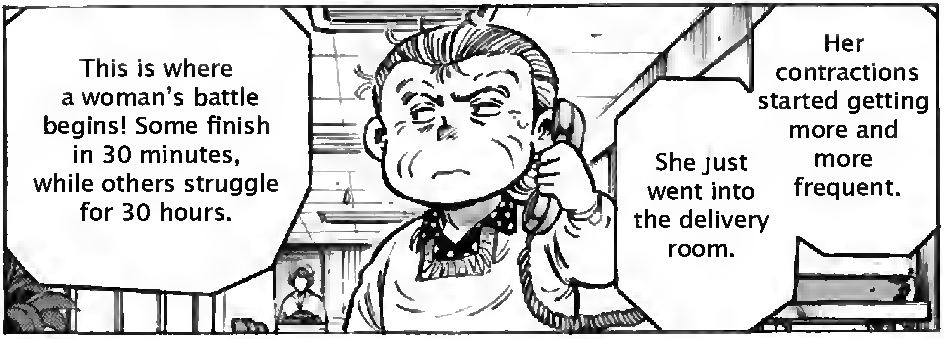
Keep 'em comin'! What's your next question!? What d'ya wanna know!? I'll tell ya anything! I've been talking non-stop since last night! Come on, ask me anything!


...watching over us! All eyes are on us!
They're all...
The ocean, the sky, the sun!

Oh yeah... A deep, trembling uneasiness.
Uneasy...?
Well, you get talkative when you're feeling uneasy.
Is... Mr. Orman all right?
What... was sacrificed!?
...something was sacrificed.
...it can only mean...
...starts puttin' out times this good...
When a rookie driver in his first year of F1, in a car like that...
Not just about Gunma's time.
Or a balanced life...
The future, maybe ...
If you consider 78 years as the length of a person's life...
This race will go on for 78 laps. They go around the circuit 78 times.

You're starting to sound like Jesus...
Please don't be sayin' things like that...
Some may lose it all at seventeen...
...while others might make it to a hundred.
Mr. Kuroi!
VRROOOM
!?
Tamo-tsu...
It's like everything is flowing on this messy tide we can't fight against. Orman, Gunma, the crew, spectators, reporters, everyone in the world...
We're being carried by a tide much bigger than ourselves.
No one can stop it.
...
...and we're all powerless against it.
...even you and me. We're all being carried by this tide...

He's already born!?
Calm down!
What!? She's in the delivery room...!?


This is where a woman's battle begins! Some finish in 30 minutes, while others struggle for 30 hours.
She just went into the delivery room.
Her contractions started getting more and more frequent.

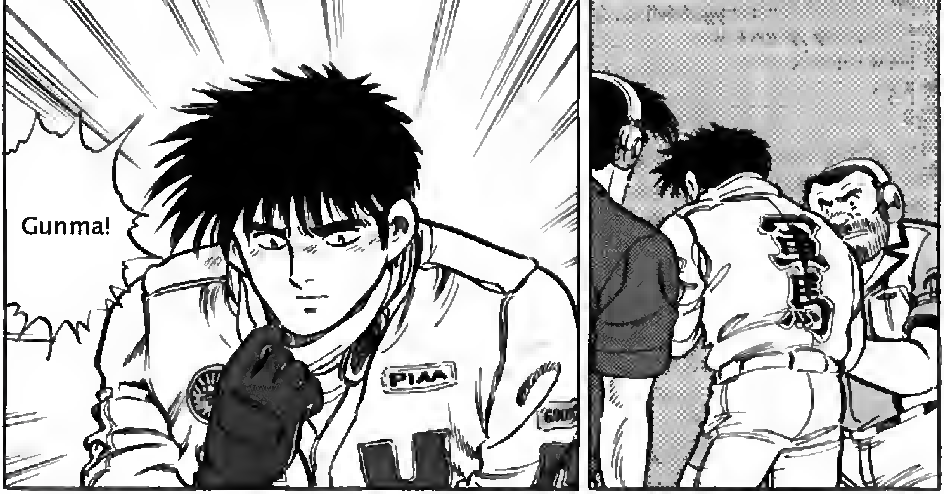
Don't worry, Gunma. Leave it to me. You have nothing to worry about.
I need to go. I need to stay by her side.

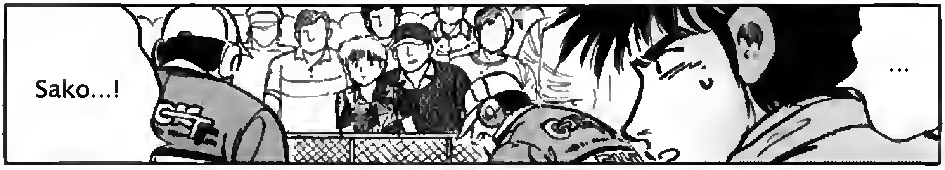
...is the promise you made with Junko!
The only thing you need to be worrying about...

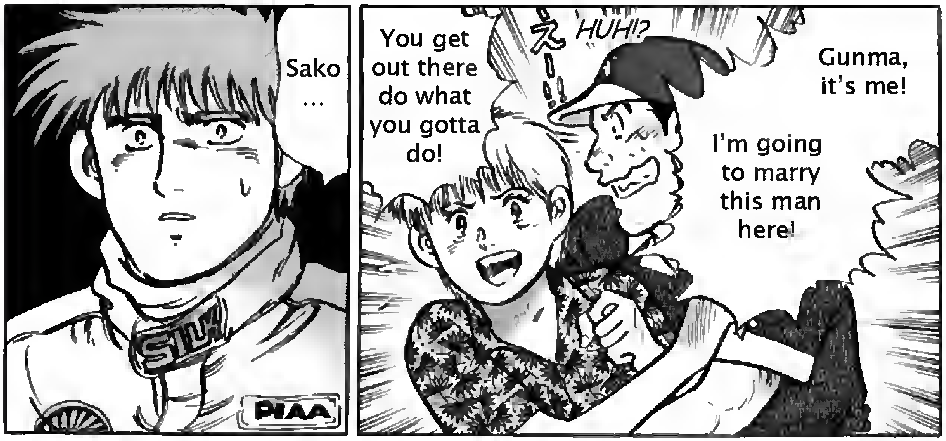
KNOCK
KNOCK
The pro-mise...
...I made ...
Who is it...?
Mind if I come in?
Shoma ...
Hey...
Just wanted to... You know, say congratula-tions.

I'll be out there too.
Yeah... I know.
The race ain't started yet.
The hell you talkin' about?
Let's do this!
Gun-ma...
PAT
All right... It's time.
WOOHOO
...

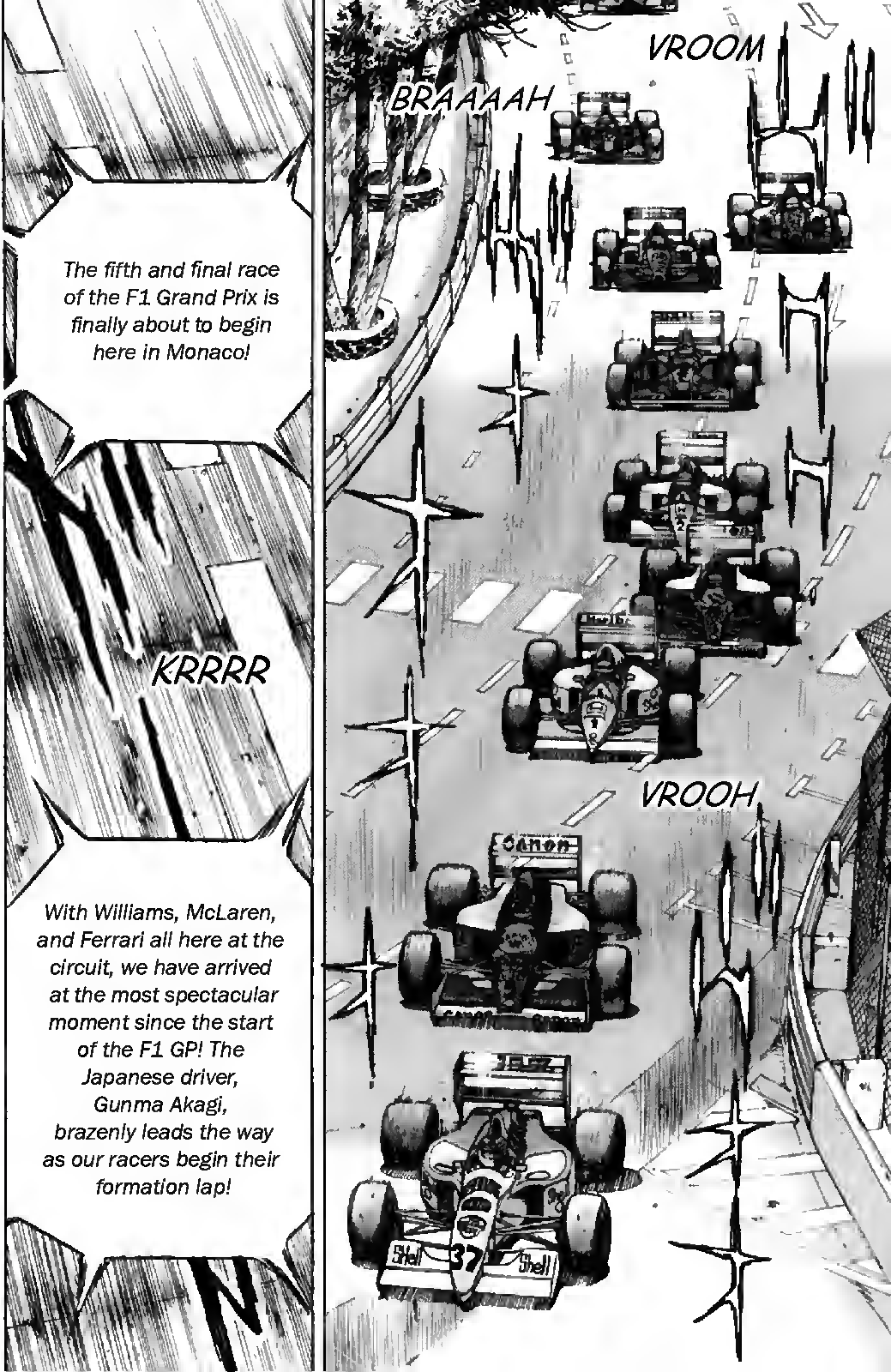
...
...
Wear it.
This is Hijiri's other glove. He gave it to me.
Take this.
Gun-ma...
Gunma... Promise me.
...
You make it back safe and sound... Ya hear me!?

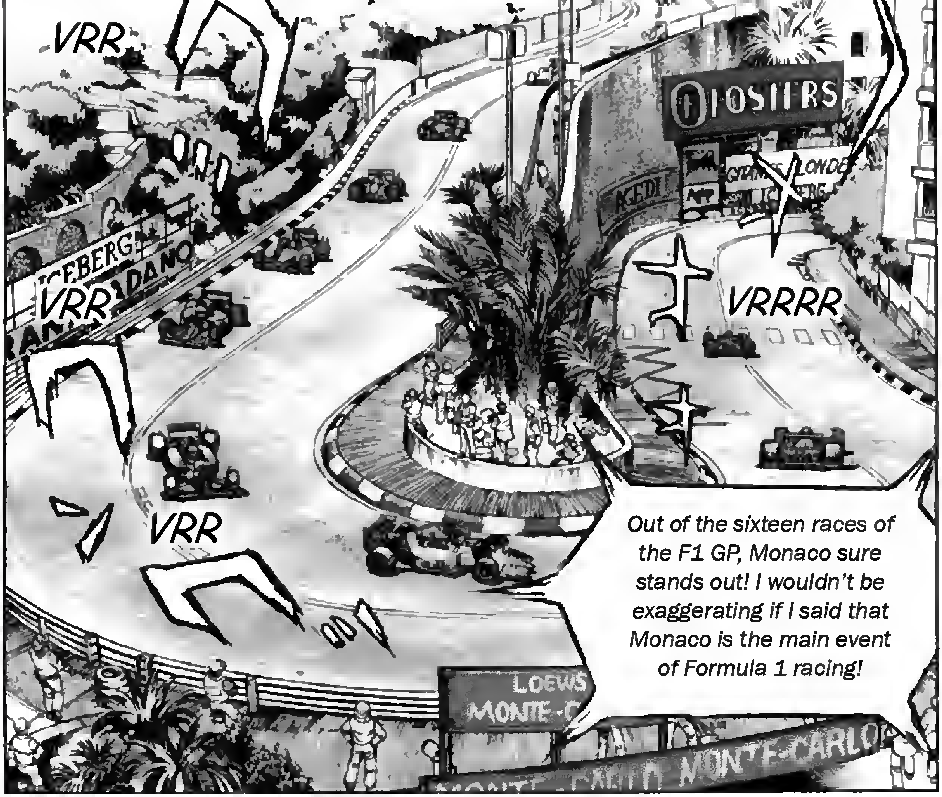

Gunma!
PIAA

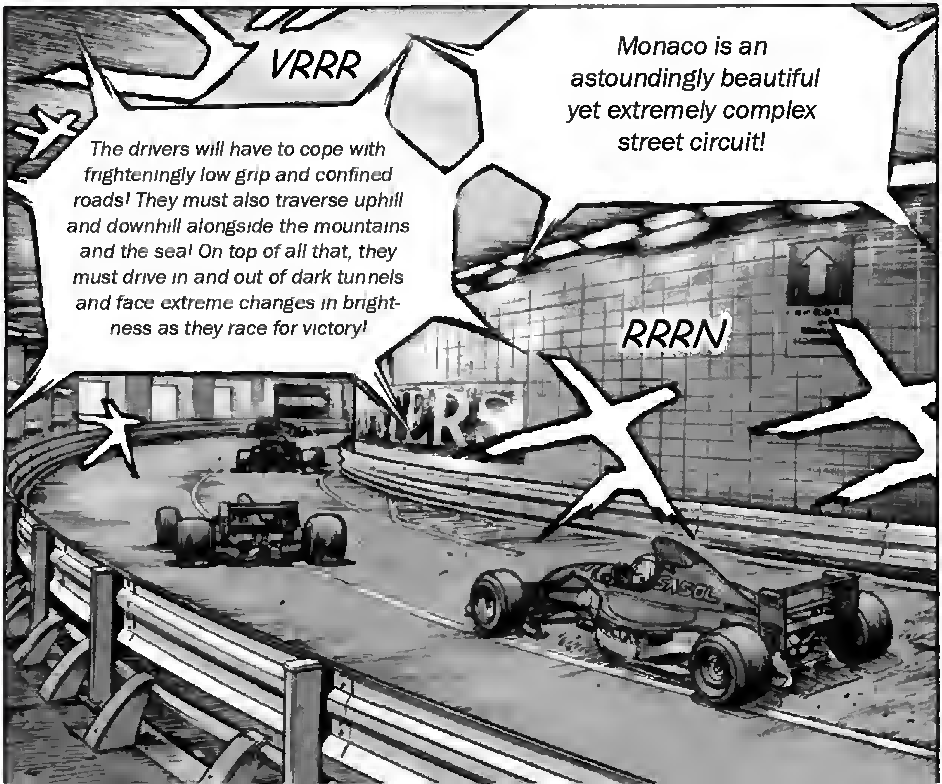

Sako...!
...


Sako
...
You get out there do what you gotta do!
え!! HUH!?
Gunma, it's me!
I'm going to marry this man here!
PIAA

All right... Here it goes!


The fifth and final race of the F1 Grand Prix is finally about to begin here in Monaco!
KRRRR
With Williams, McLaren, and Ferrari all here at the circuit, we have arrived at the most spectacular moment since the start of the F1 GP! The Japanese driver, Gunma Akagi, brazenly leads the way as our racers begin their formation lap!
BRAAAAH
VROOM
VROOH
Canon
Shell
37

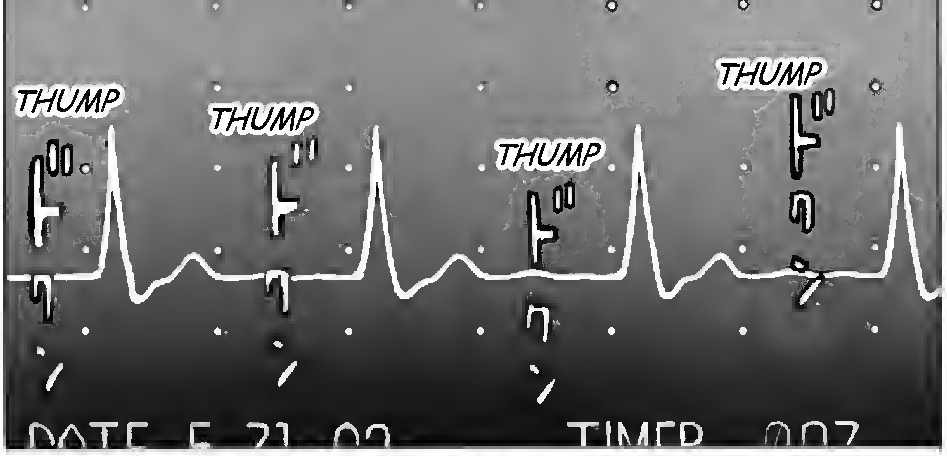

VRR
VRR
VRR
VRRRR
Out of the sixteen races of the F1 GP, Monaco sure stands out! I wouldn't be exaggerating if I said that Monaco is the main event of Formula 1 racing!

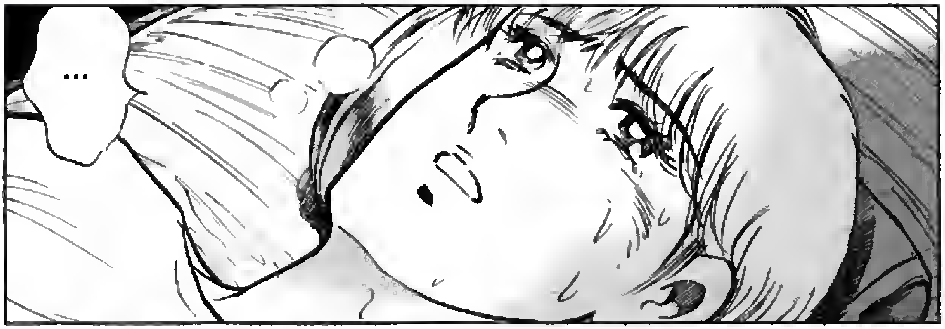

VRRR
The drivers will have to cope with frighteningly low grip and confined roads! They must also traverse uphill and downhill alongside the mountains and the sea! On top of all that, they must drive in and out of dark tunnels and face extreme changes in brightness as they race for victory!
Monaco is an astoundingly beautiful yet extremely complex street circuit!
RRRN

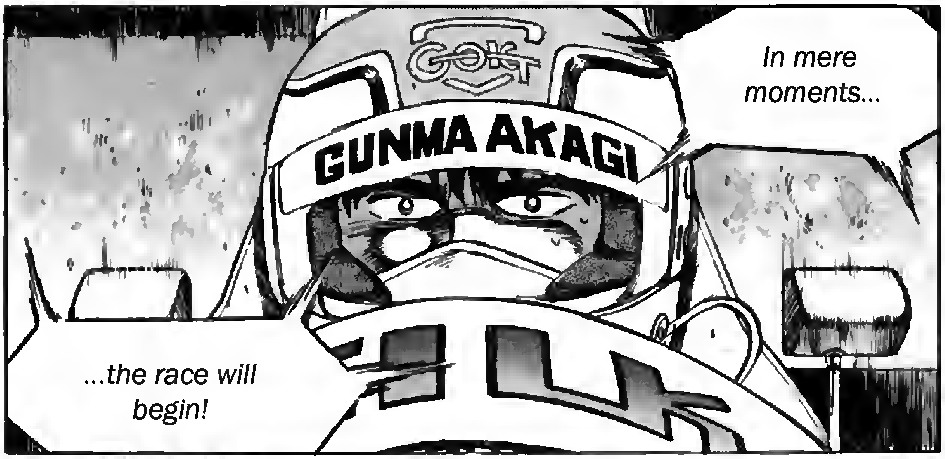
KSSHHH
TAMOIL
candy
FOSTER'S
VRRN
VROOH

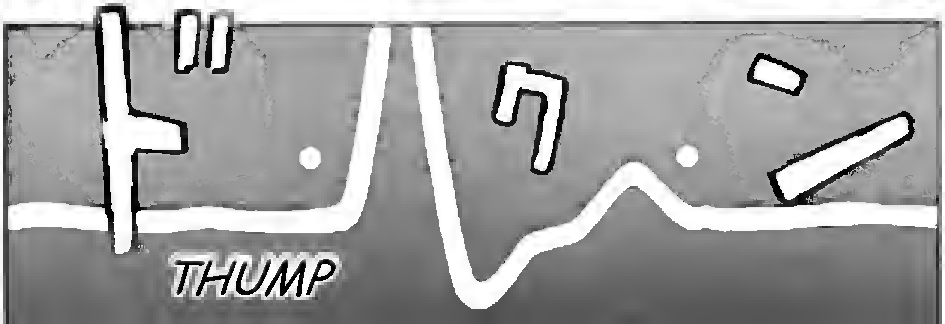
KSSHHH
FOSTER'S
VRRN

TAMOIL
Candy
VROOH

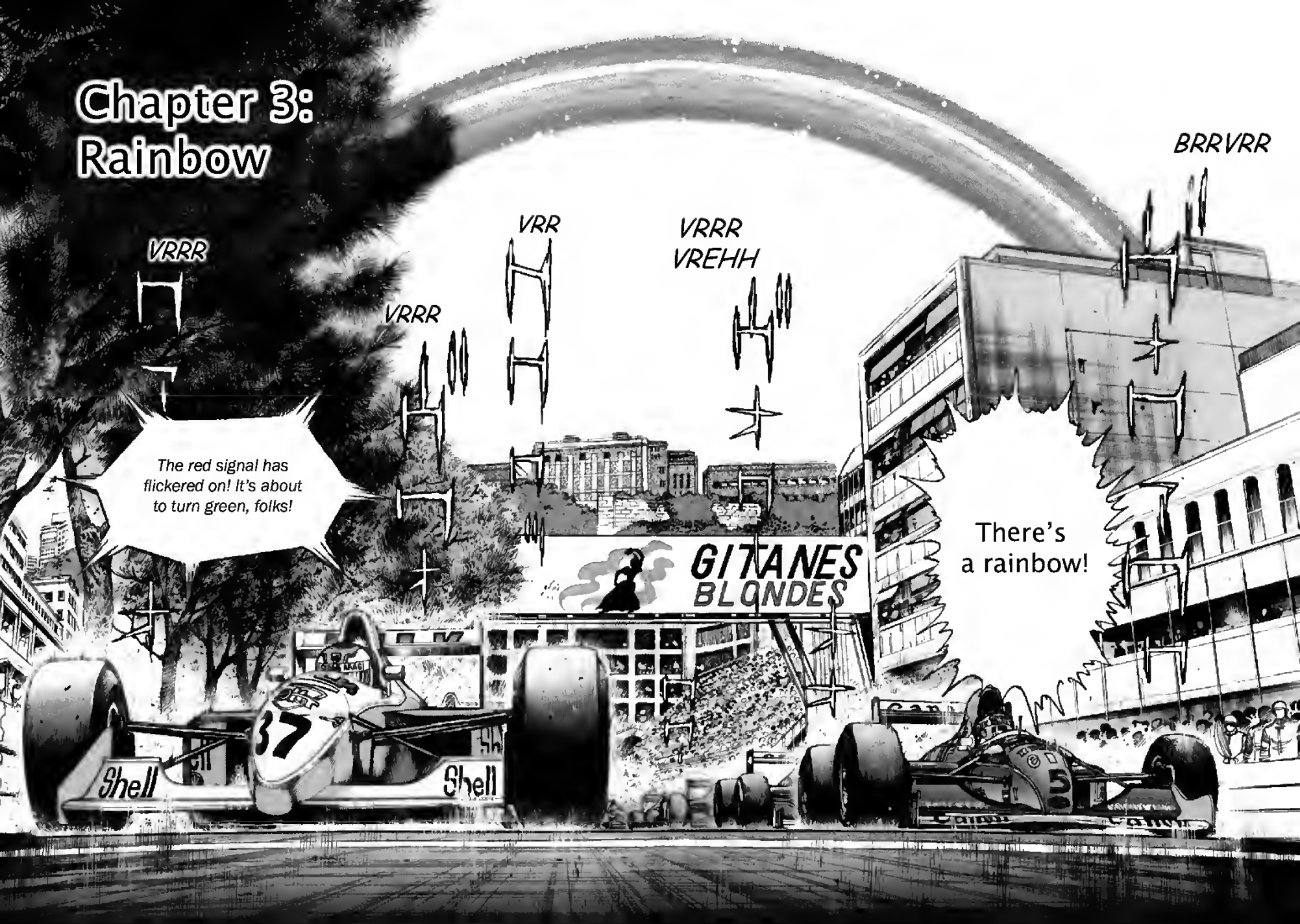

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

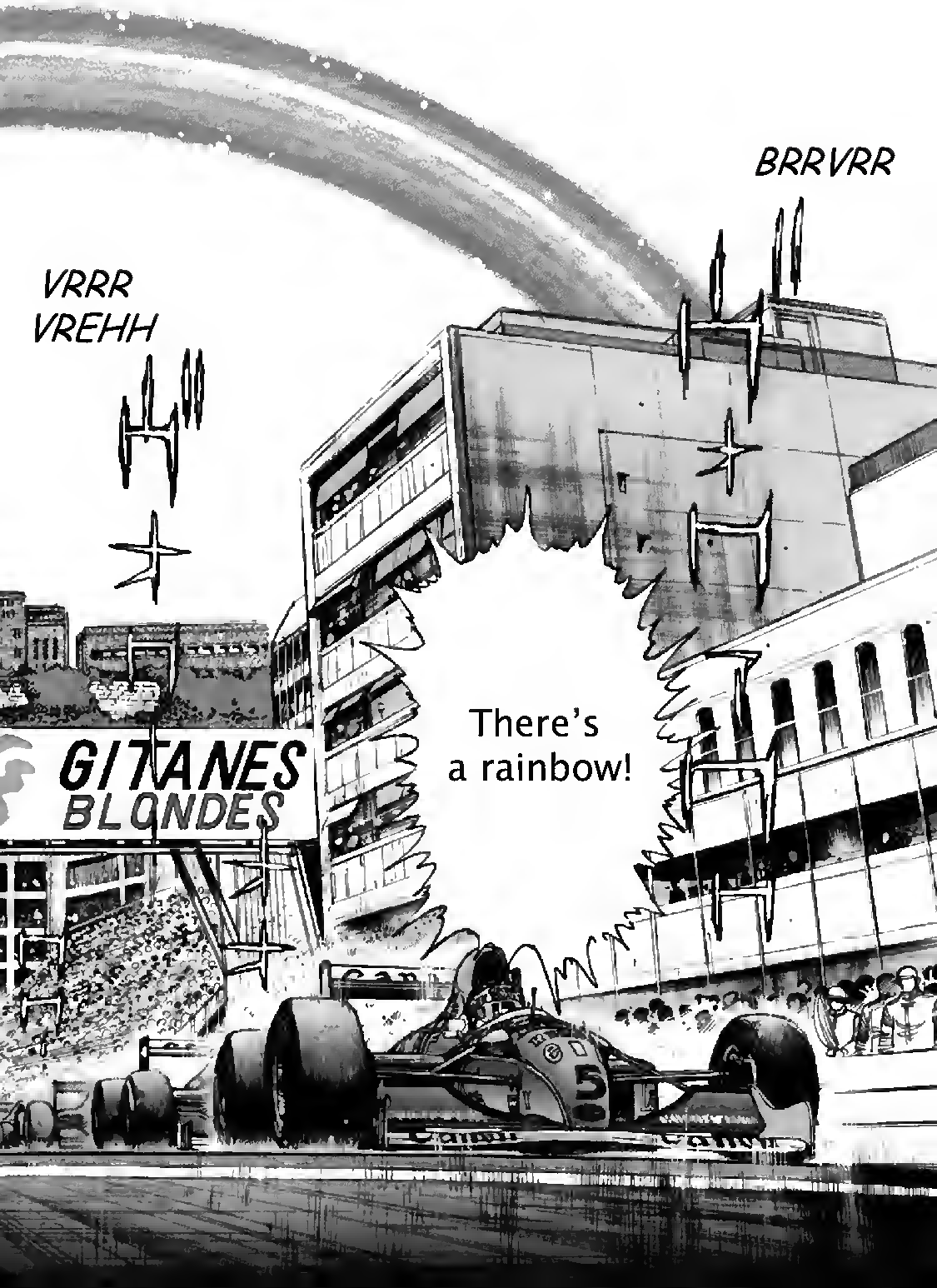

...


GUNMA AKAGI
In mere moments...
...the race will begin!

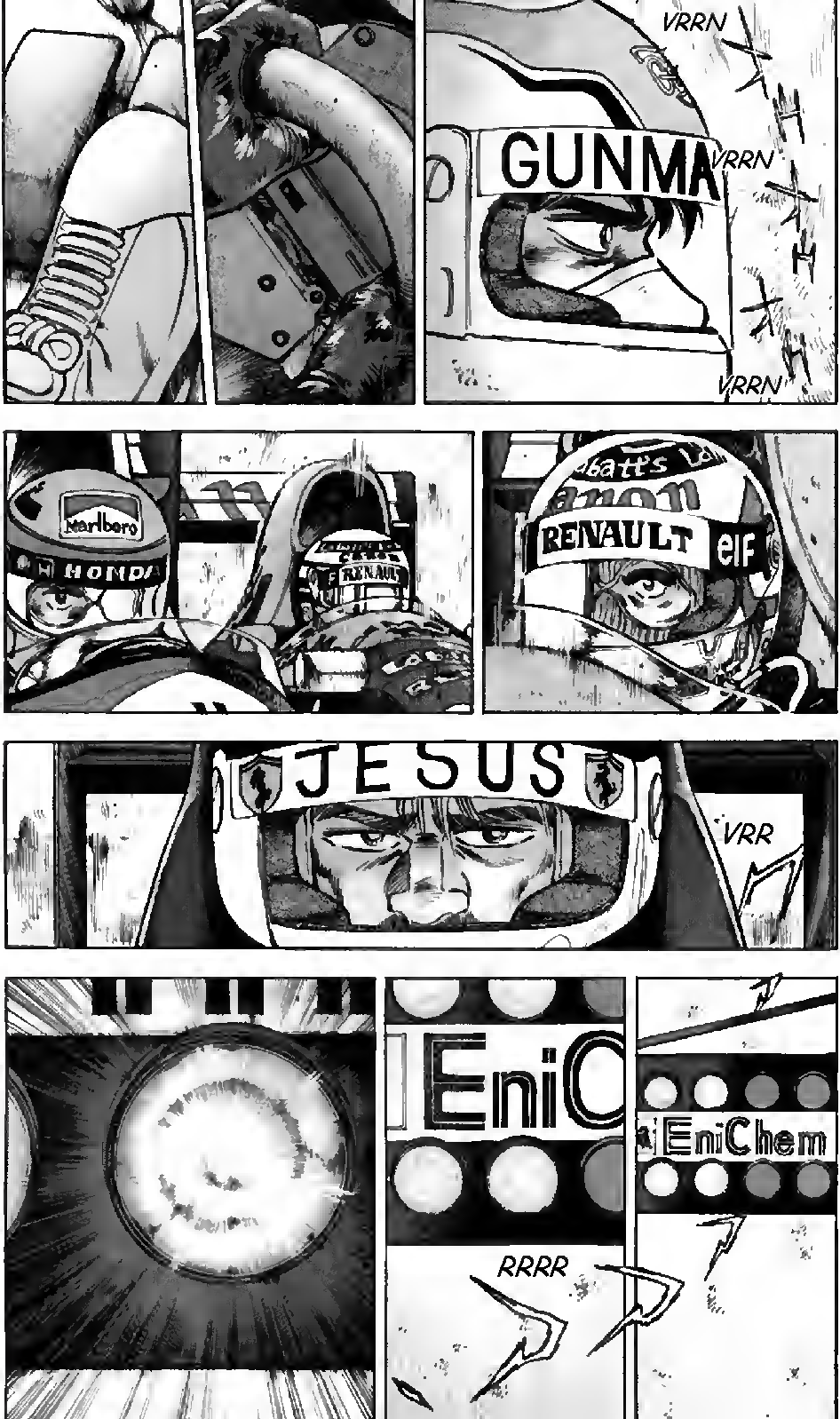

THUMP

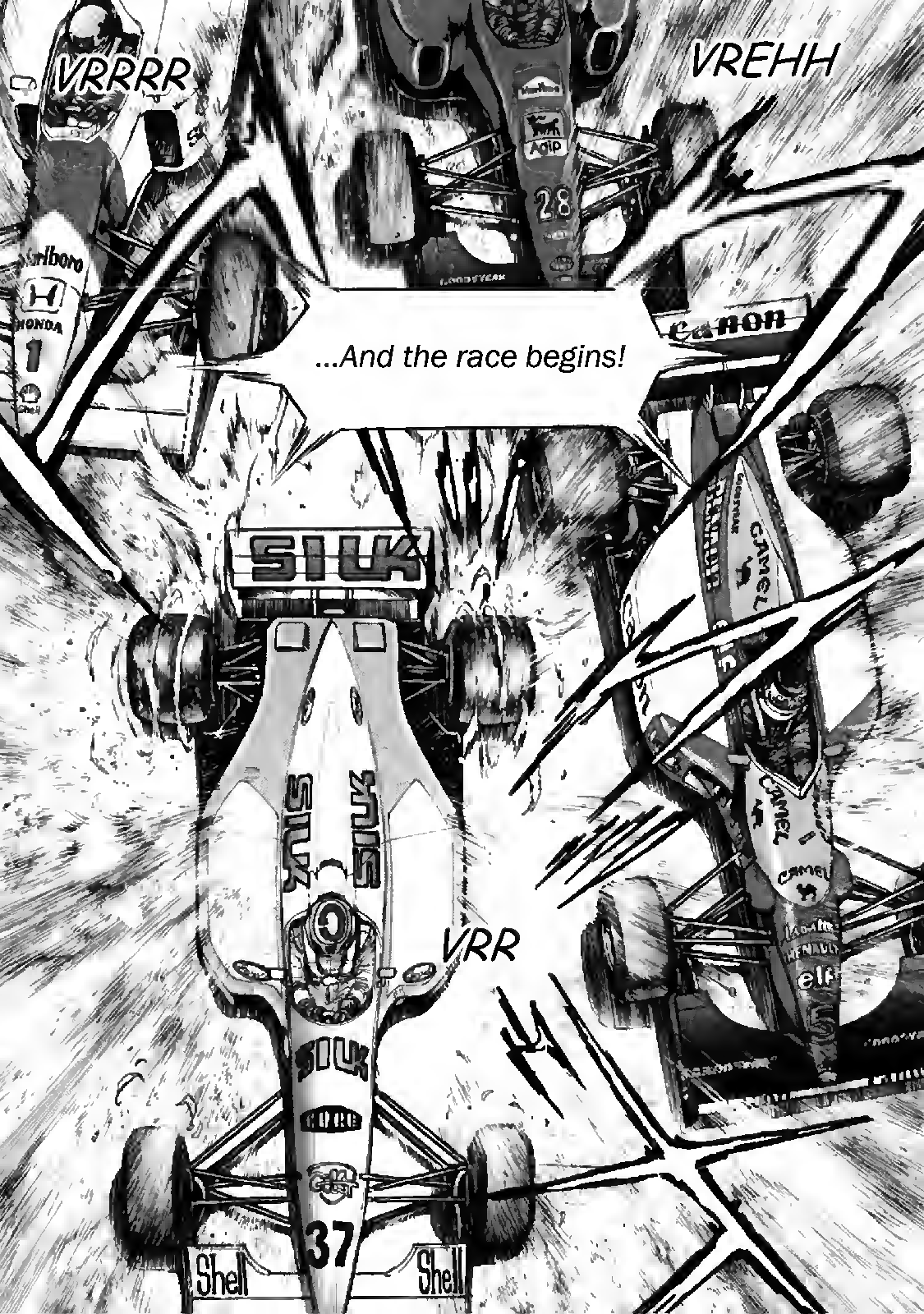
Chapter 3: Rainbow
The sixth and final race of the F1 Grand Prix is finally about to begin here in Monaco...
Hey, Sako. Why did you just yell that out just now?
Ken...
Hey, I'm tellin' you man, we used to race with that guy in FJ!
WOO
WOO
WOO
Moreno hasn't spoken a word. It's like he's completely shut out the outside world.
He's even kept his helmet on the whole time...
The first ever Japanese racer to take pole position...
YAK
YAK
YAK
Kuroi...
Hey, look...
Hey, Kuroi...


Chapter 3:
Rainbow
VRRR
VRR
VRRR
VREHH
VRRR
BRRVRR
The red signal has flickered on! It's about to turn green, folks!
There's a rainbow!
GITANES
BLONDES
37
Shell
Shell

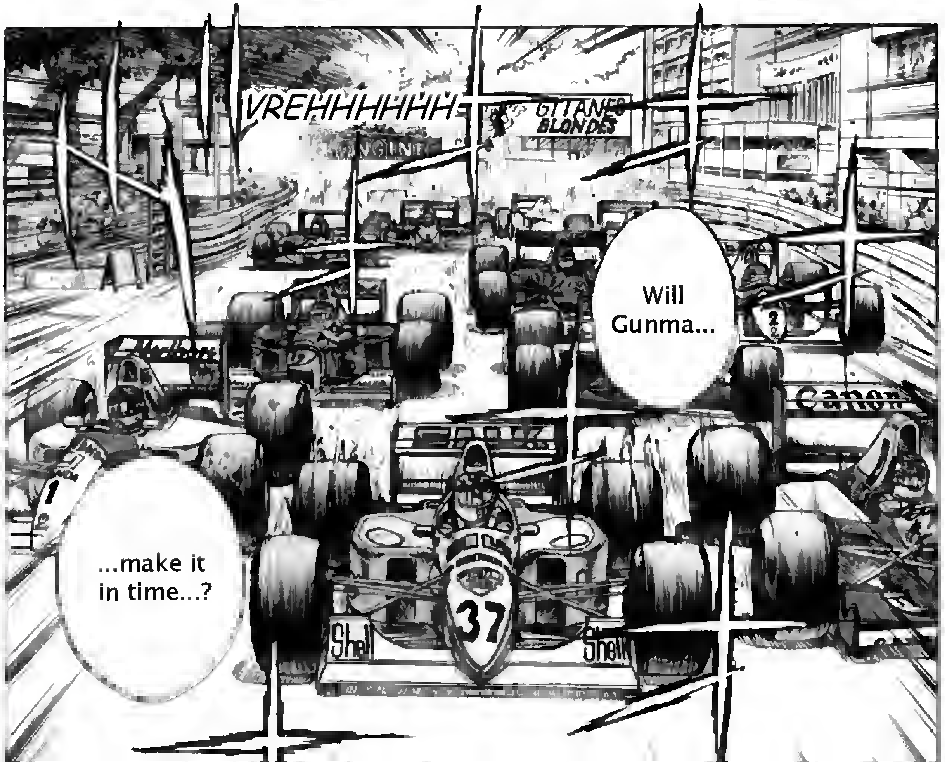

BRRVRR
VRRR
VREHH
There's a rainbow!
GITANES
BLONDES

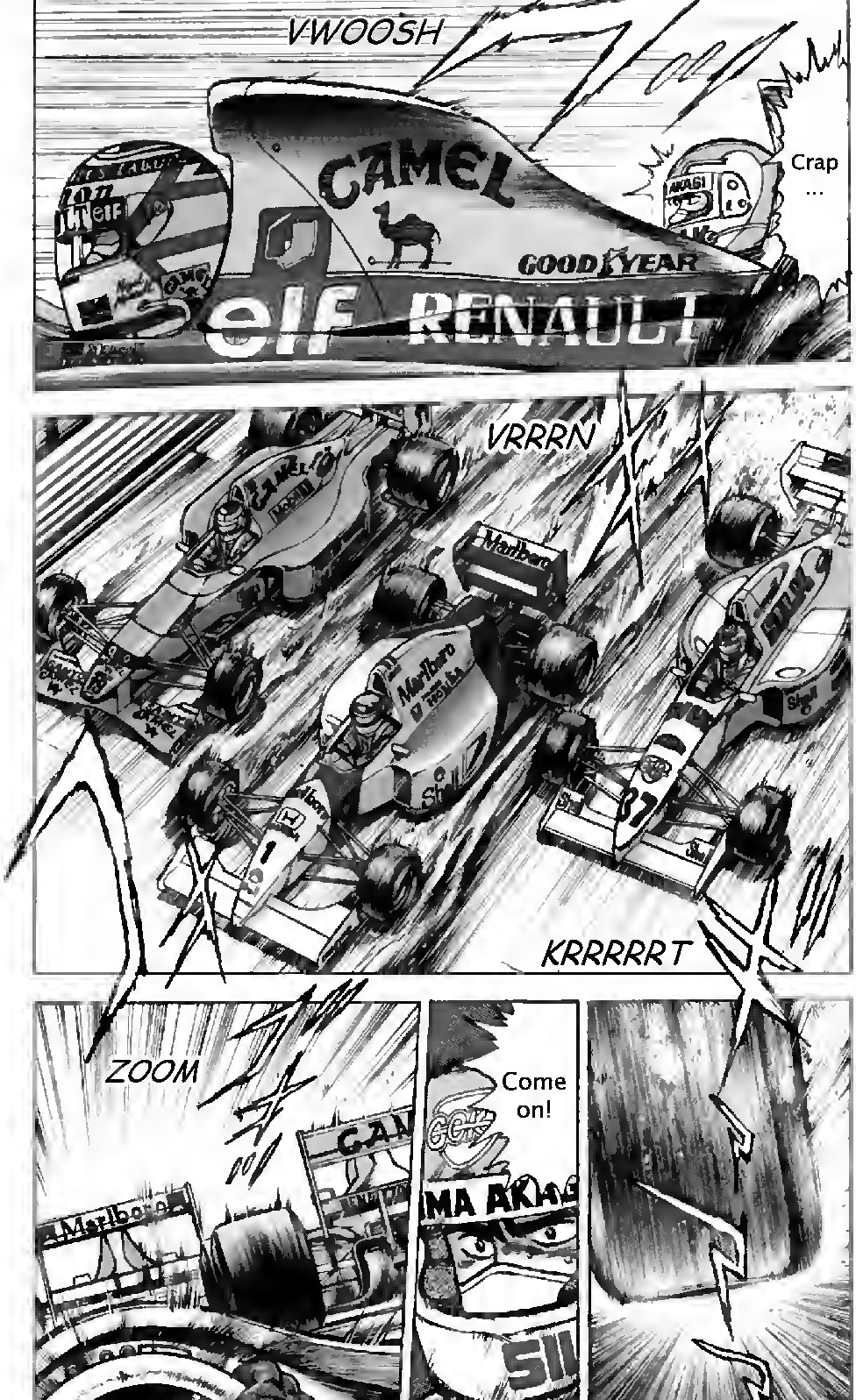
Chapter 3:
Rainbow
VRRR
VRRR
VRR
The red signal has flickered on! It's about to turn green, folks!
37
Shell
Shell

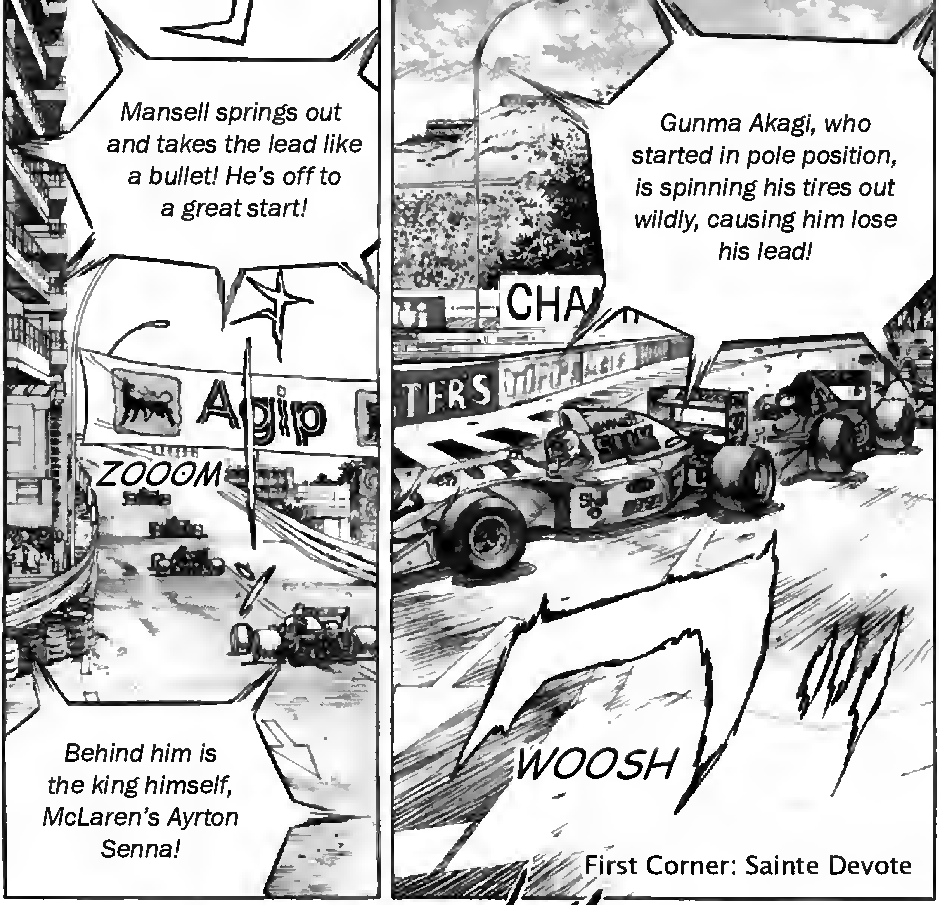

VRRN
GUNMA
VRRN
VRRN
Marlboro
HONDA
RENAULT
elf
JESUS
VRR
EniC
EniChem
RRRR

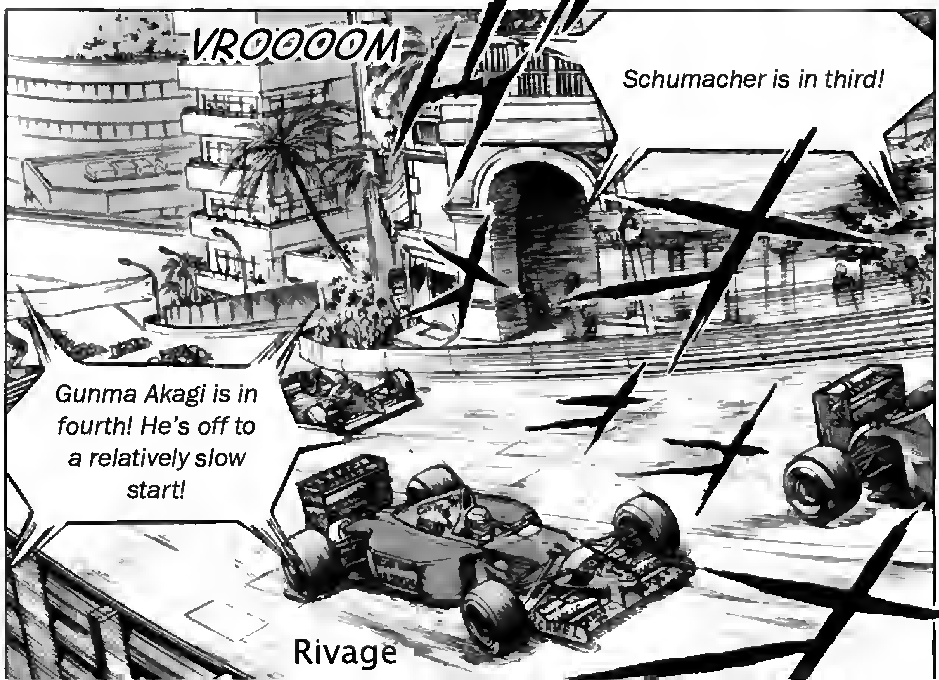

VRRRR
VREHH
...And the race begins!
VRR

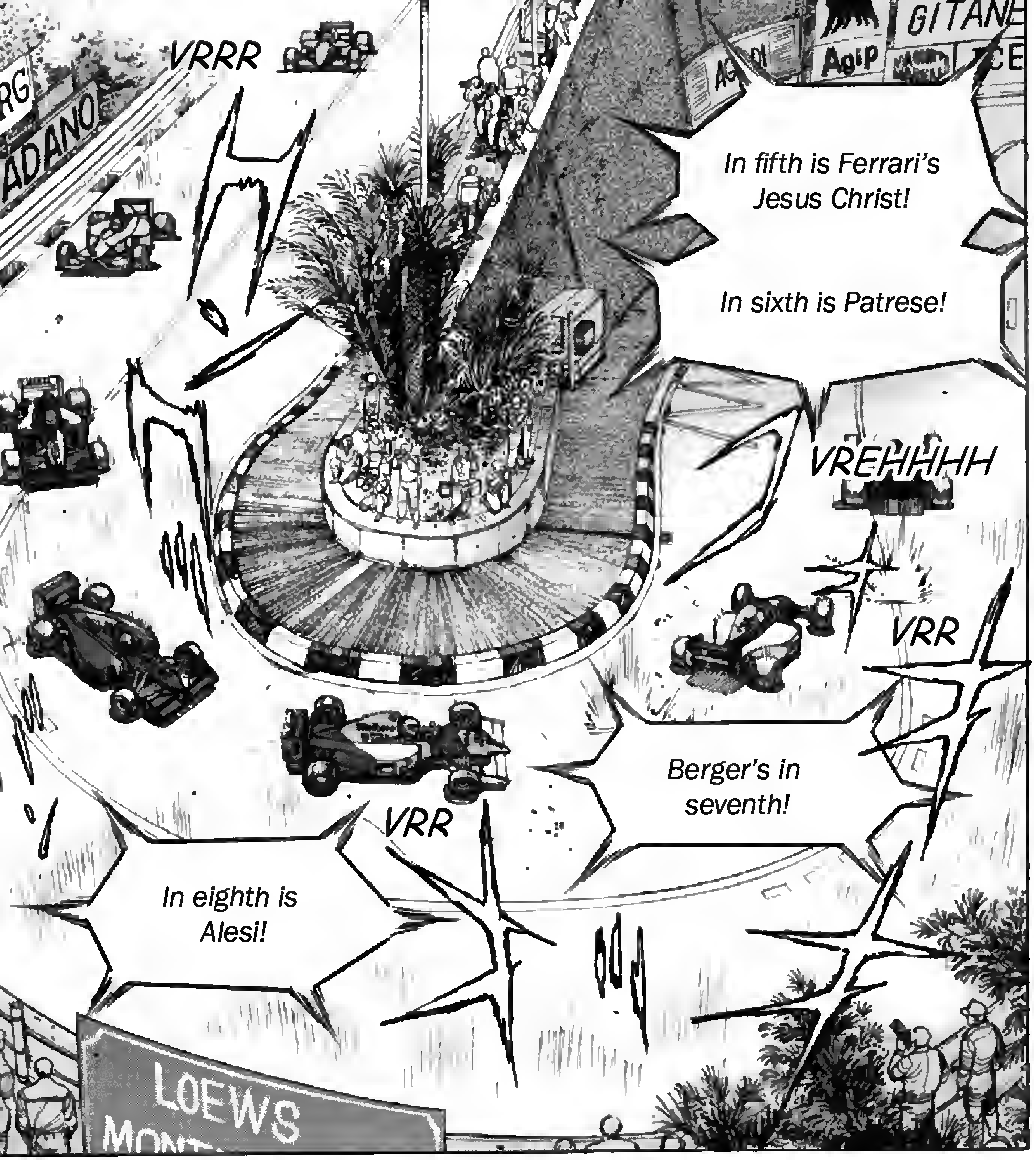
VRRRRRRR
VWOOSH
Will he make it...?


VREHHHHHH
GT TANEO BLONDES
Will Gunma...
...make it in time...?
Canon
Shell
37

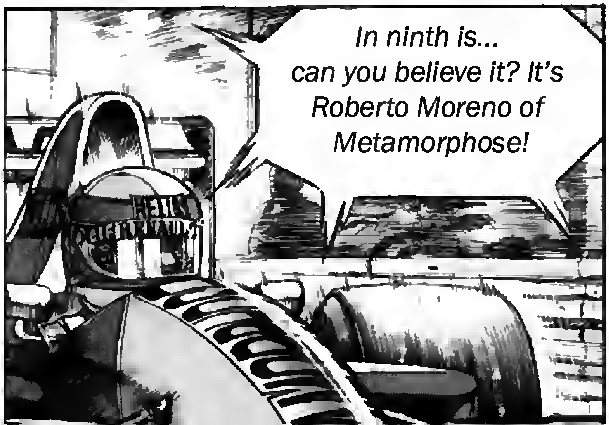

VWOOSH
CAMEL
GOODYEAR
elf RENAULT
Crap ...
VRRRN
Marlboro
KRRRRRT
ZOOM
Come on!

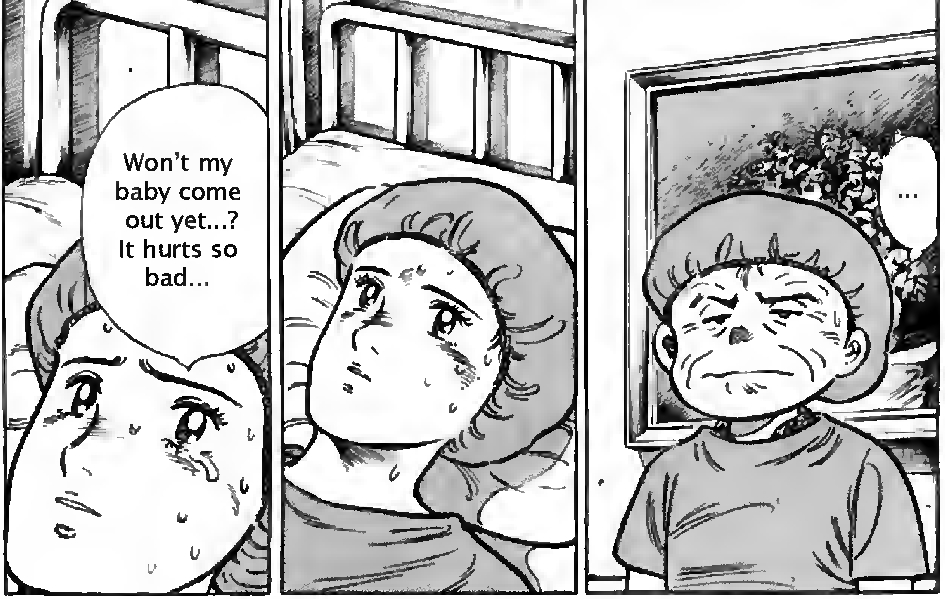

Mansell springs out and takes the lead like a bullet! He's off to a great start!
Agip
ZOOOM
Behind him is the king himself, McLaren's Ayrton Senna!
Gunma Akagi, who started in pole position, is spinning his tires out wildly, causing him lose his lead!
CHA
TERS
WOOSH
First Corner: Sainte Devote

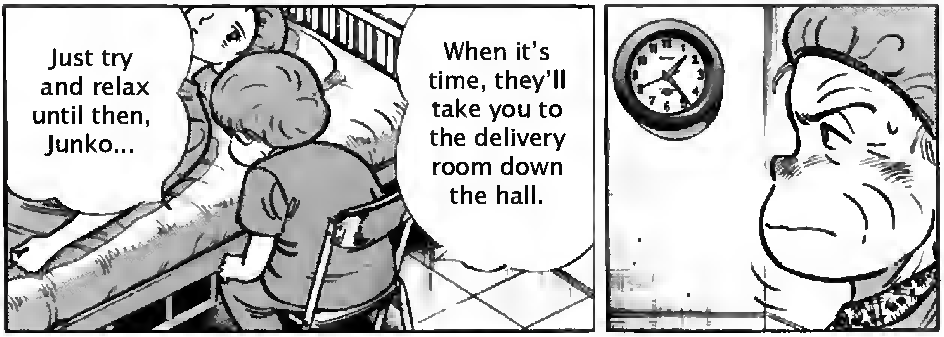

VROOOOM
Schumacher is in third!
Gunma Akagi is in fourth! He's off to a relatively slow start!
Rivage


VRRR
In fifth is Ferrari's Jesus Christ!
In sixth is Patrese!
VREHHHH
VRR
Berger's in seventh!
VRR
In eighth is Alesi!
LOEWS
GITANE
Agip

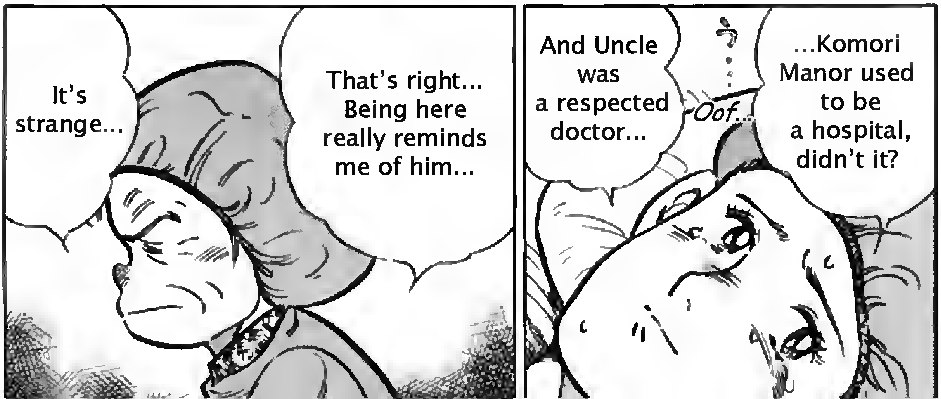
WOOSH


In ninth is... can you believe it? It's Roberto Moreno of Metamorphose!

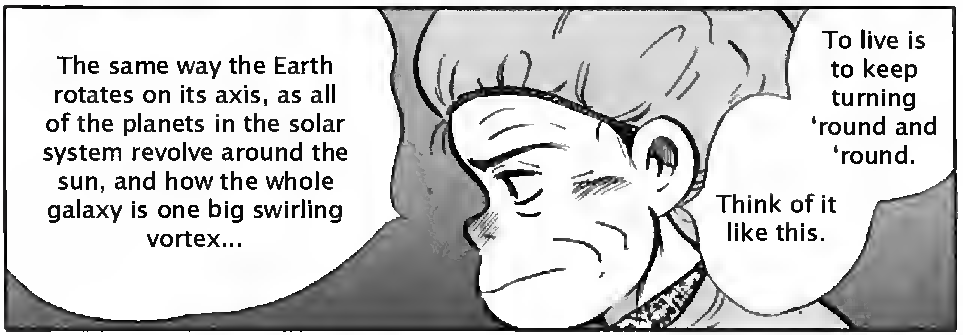

Won't my baby come out yet...? It hurts so bad...
...


Just try and relax until then, Junko...
When it's time, they'll take you to the delivery room down the hall.

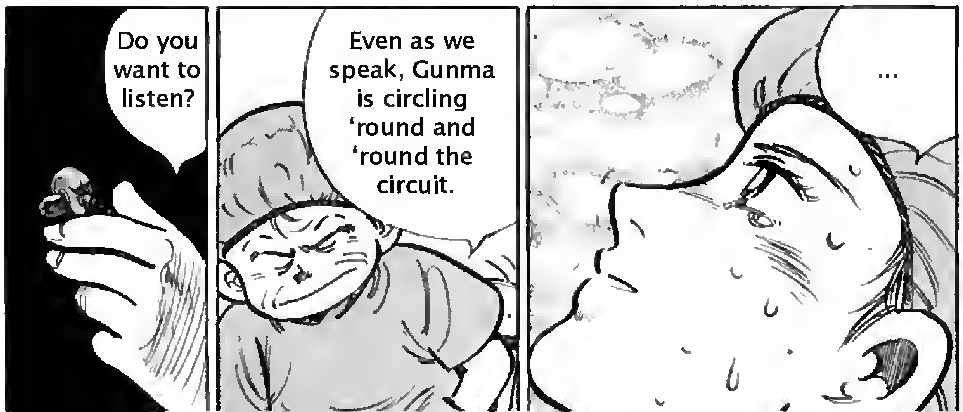
By the way...
You're about the experience the happiest moment of a woman's life! Haha...


It's strange...
That's right... Being here really reminds me of him...
And Uncle was a respected doctor...
Oof...
...Komori Manor used to be a hospital, didn't it?

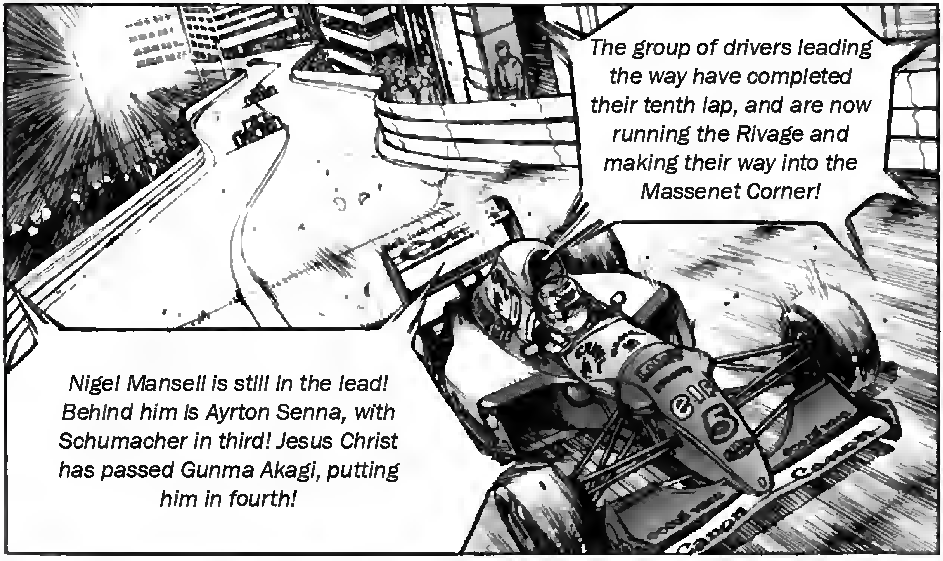
A revolving wheel... Turning 'round and 'round...
A wheel ...?
"Life is like a revolving wheel!"
There's something he used to say all the time...


The same way the Earth rotates on its axis, as all of the planets in the solar system revolve around the sun, and how the whole galaxy is one big swirling vortex...
To live is to keep turning 'round and 'round.
Think of it like this.

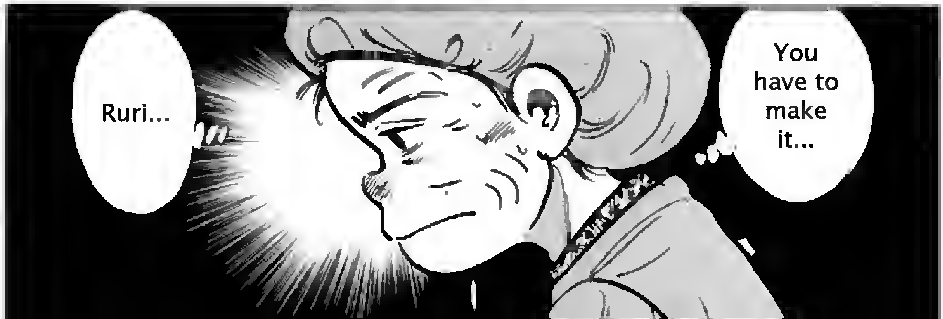
...our lives, no matter how insignificant they may be, they all revolve around something.

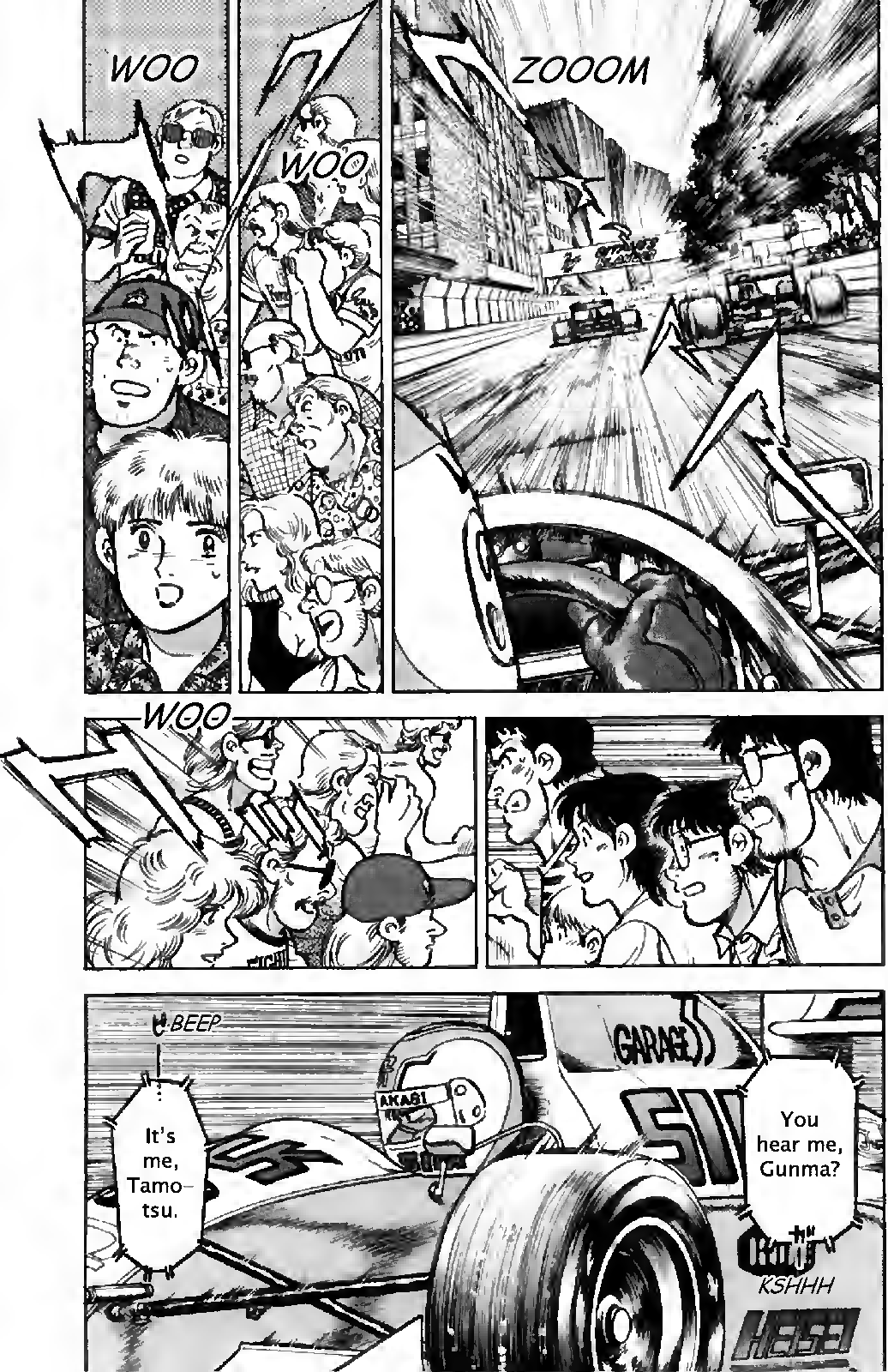

Do you want to listen?
Even as we speak, Gunma is circling 'round and 'round the circuit.
...

...
Whoa!
I don't understand English, anyway.
Just for a bit. Don't tell the doctor I'm letting you do this.

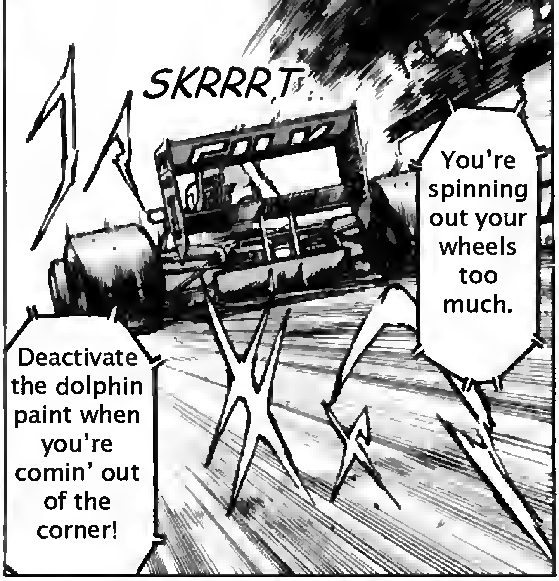

The group of drivers leading the way have completed their tenth lap, and are now running the Rivage and making their way into the Massenet Corner!
Nigel Mansell is still in the lead! Behind him is Ayrton Senna, with Schumacher in third! Jesus Christ has passed Gunma Akagi, putting him in fourth!

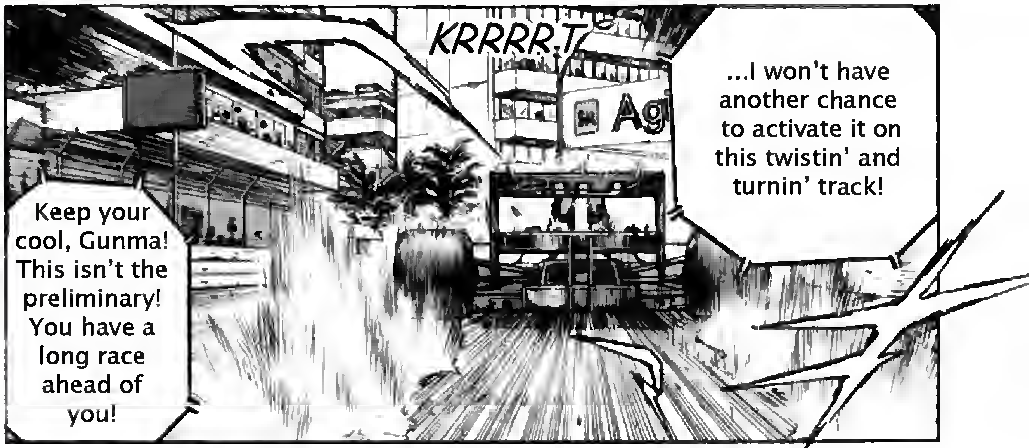
Gunma Akagi started in pole position but is now lagging behind in sixth! What happened to the Gunma we saw in the preliminary?

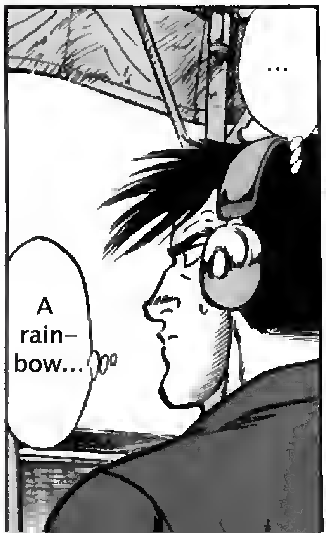

Ruri...
You have to make it...

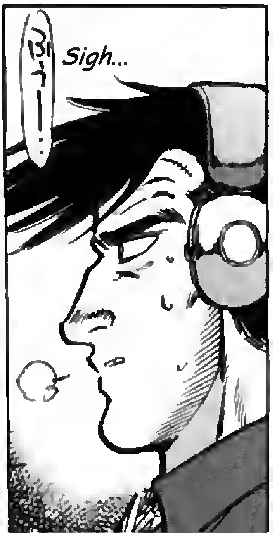

WOO
WOO
ZOOOM
WOO
BEEP
It's me, Tamo-tsu.
AKAGI
GARAGE
You hear me, Gunma?
KSHHH

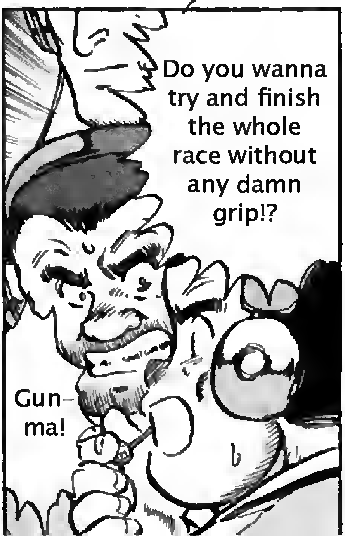
The hell you sayin'?
If I do that, then...

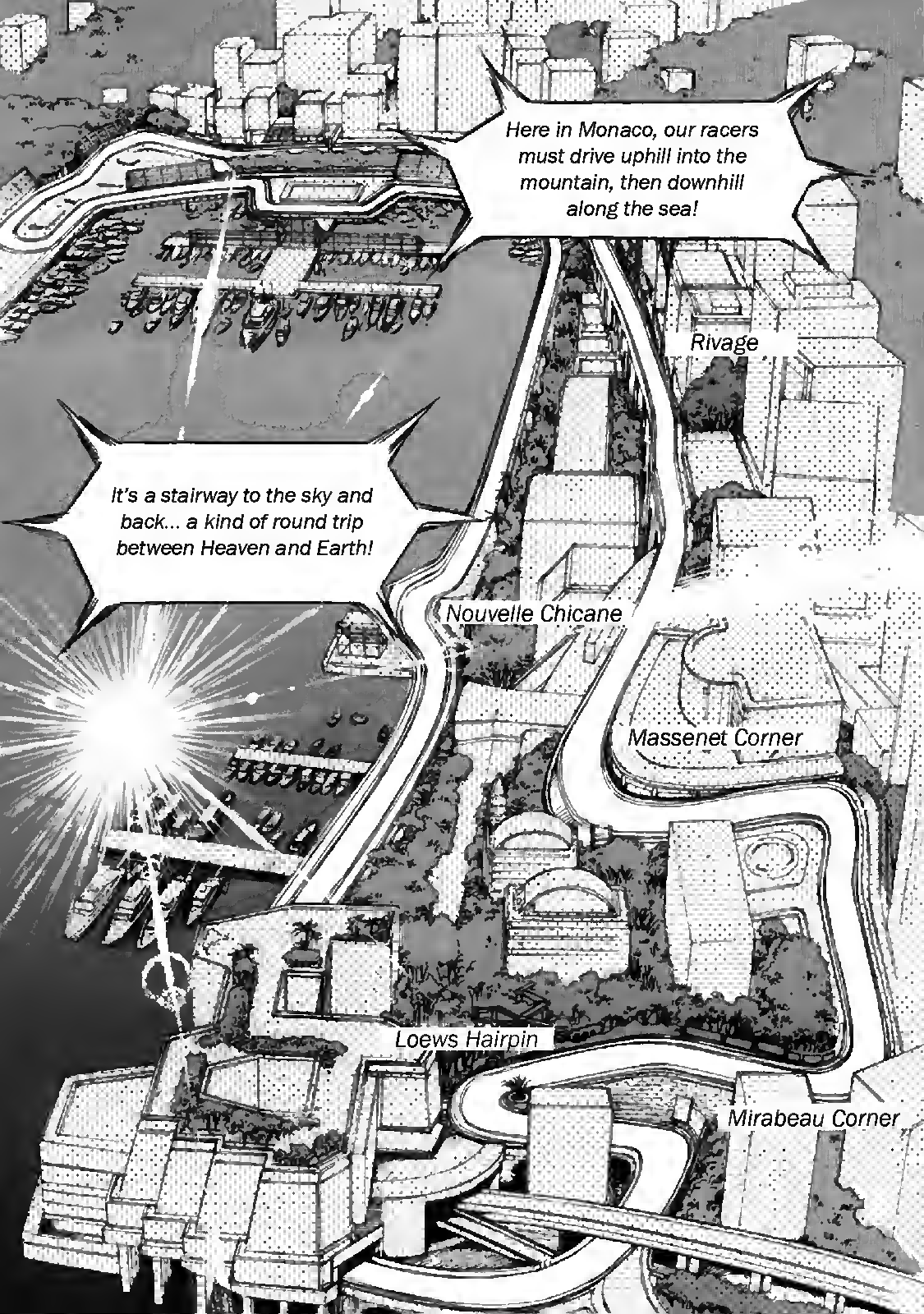

SKRRR.T
You're spinning out your wheels too much.
Deactivate the dolphin paint when you're comin' out of the corner!


KRRRR.T
...I won't have another chance to activate it on this twistin' and turnin' track!
Keep your cool, Gunma! This isn't the preliminary! You have a long race ahead of you!

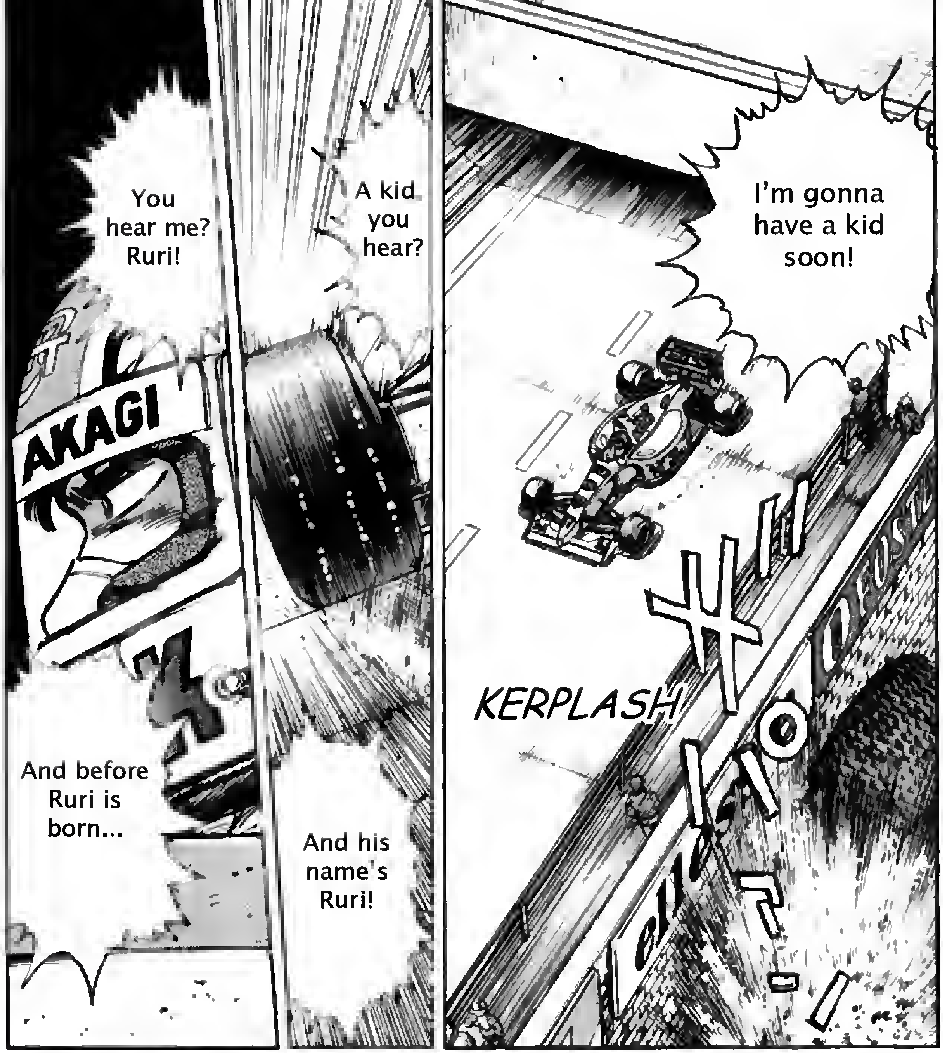

...
A rain-bow...


Sigh...

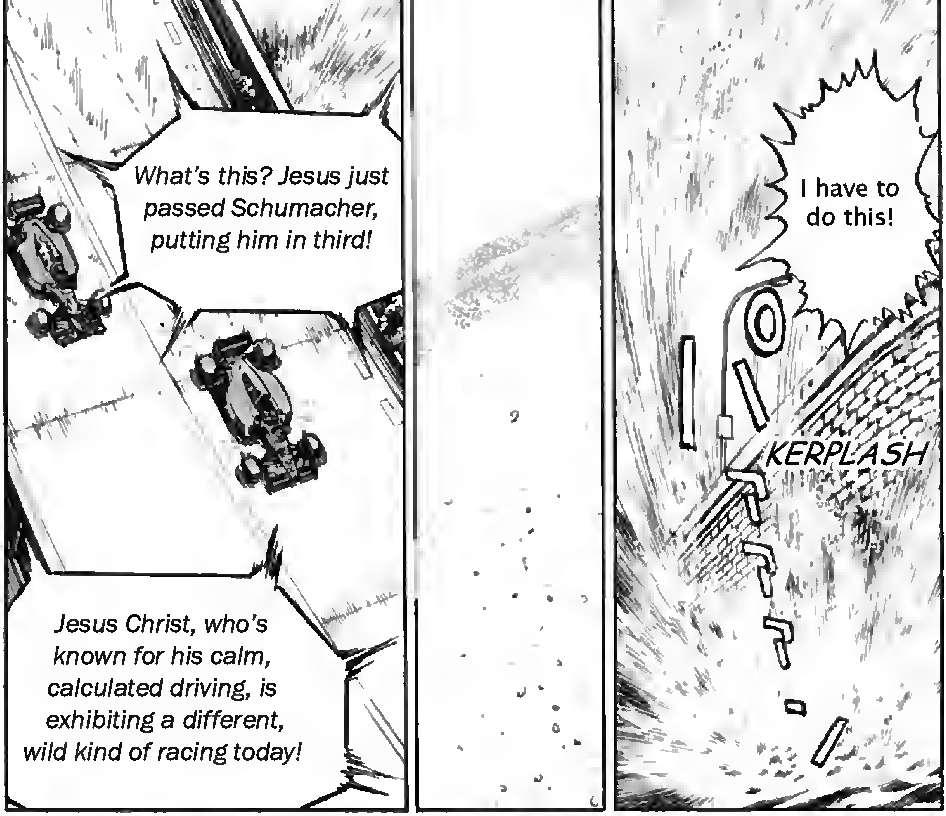

Do you wanna try and finish the whole race without any damn grip!?
Gun-ma!


Here in Monaco, our racers must drive uphill into the mountain, then downhill along the sea!
Rivage
It's a stairway to the sky and back... a kind of round trip between Heaven and Earth!
Nouvelle Chicane
Massenet Corner
Loews Hairpin
Mirabeau Corner

FWOOOOSH
Marlboro
I guess...
Tamotsu might be right...
...to regain a little grip...
WOOSH
I gotta do some-thing...
GUNMA AKAGI
...the dolphin paint...
KRRRR
But I ain't switchin' off...
FWOOSH
You got that, Tamotsu?


You hear me? Ruri!
A kid you hear?
AKAGI
And before Ruri is born...
And his name's Ruri!
I'm gonna have a kid soon!
KERPLASH!

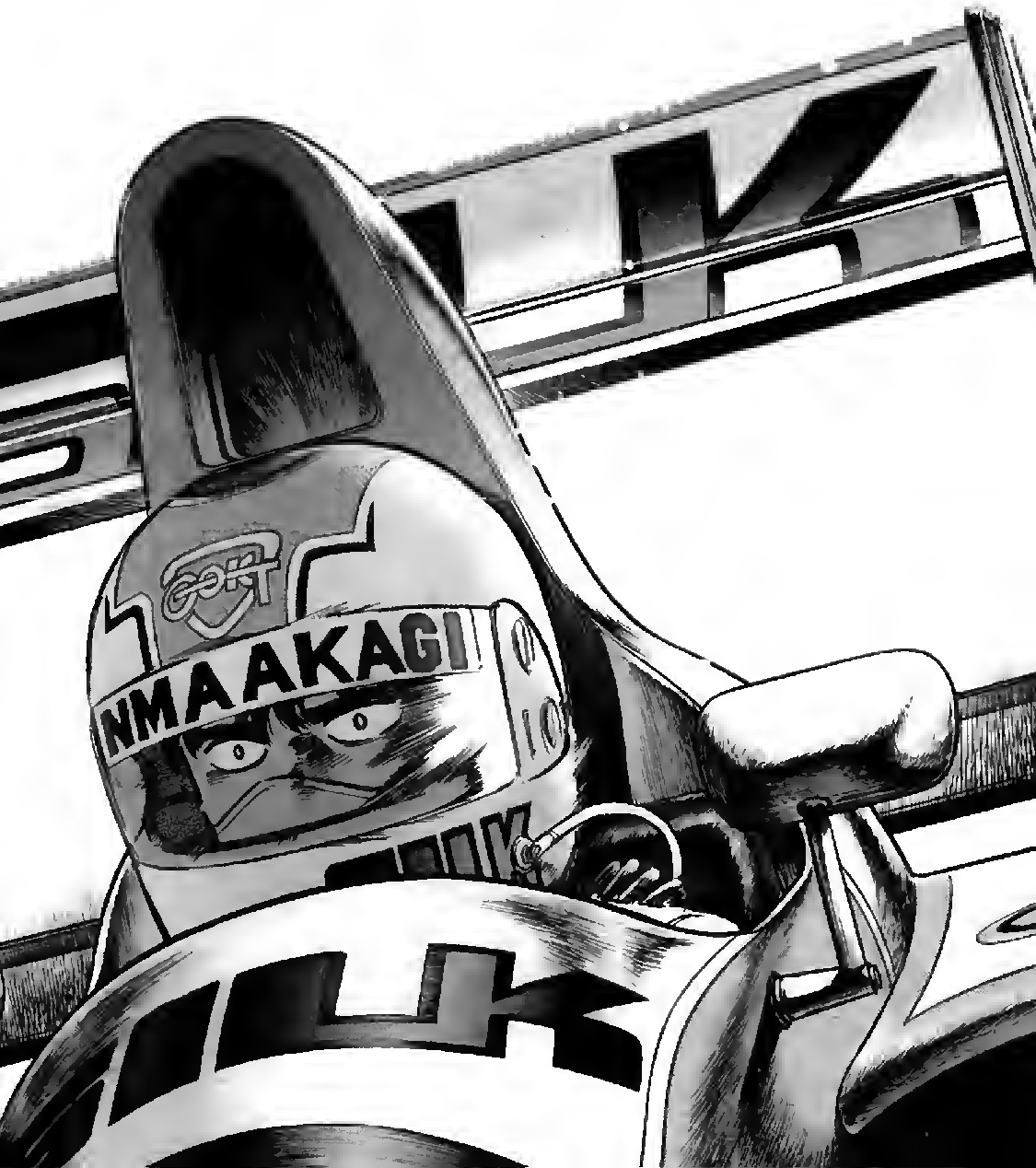
...there's something I gotta take care of, no matter what!
AKAGI


What's this? Jesus just passed Schumacher, putting him in third!
Jesus Christ, who's known for his calm, calculated driving, is exhibiting a different, wild kind of racing today!
I have to do this!
KERPLASH

Incredibly fast!
Jesus is fast, folks!

Gunma...
GARAGE

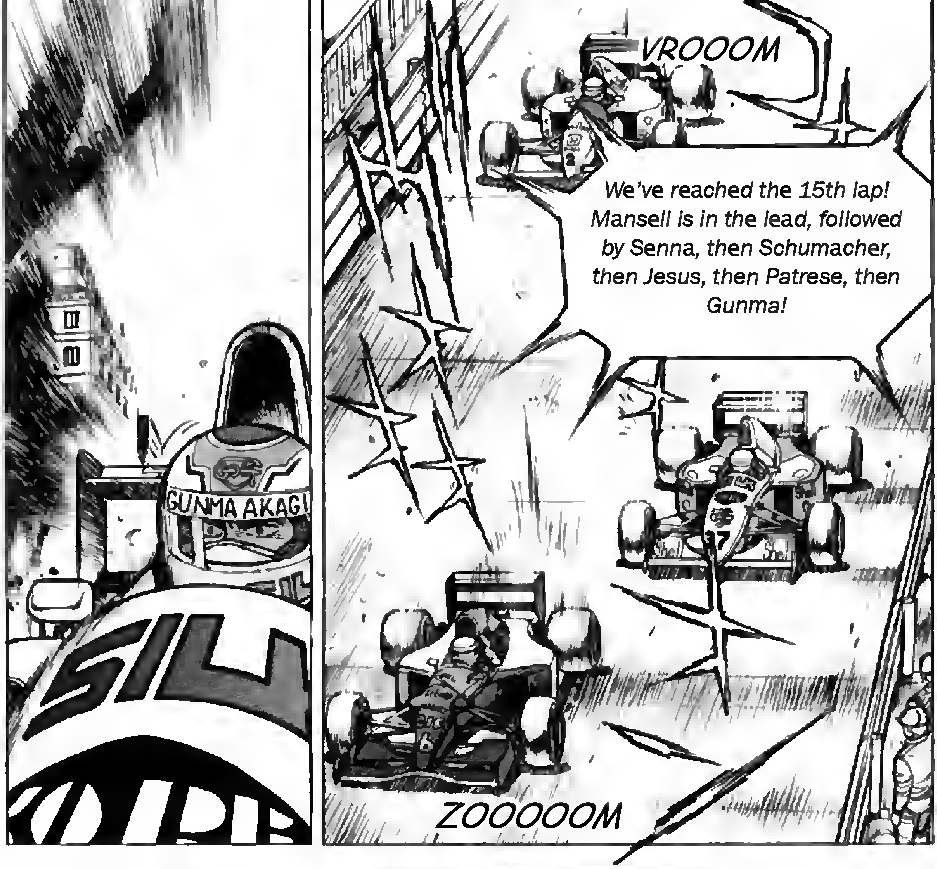
Chapter 4:
Chocolate Umbrella



BRAAAH
ZOOOM
Marh
Mansell's even faster! The gap between him and second is getting wider and wider! The roar of his Williams echoes throughout Monaco as he clocks in at the 1 minute 19 second mark!
EHHH
VRR

rld
Mansell's even faster! The gap between him and second is getting wider and wider! The roar of his Williams echoes throughout Monaco as he clocks in at the 1 minute 19 second mark!
EHHH

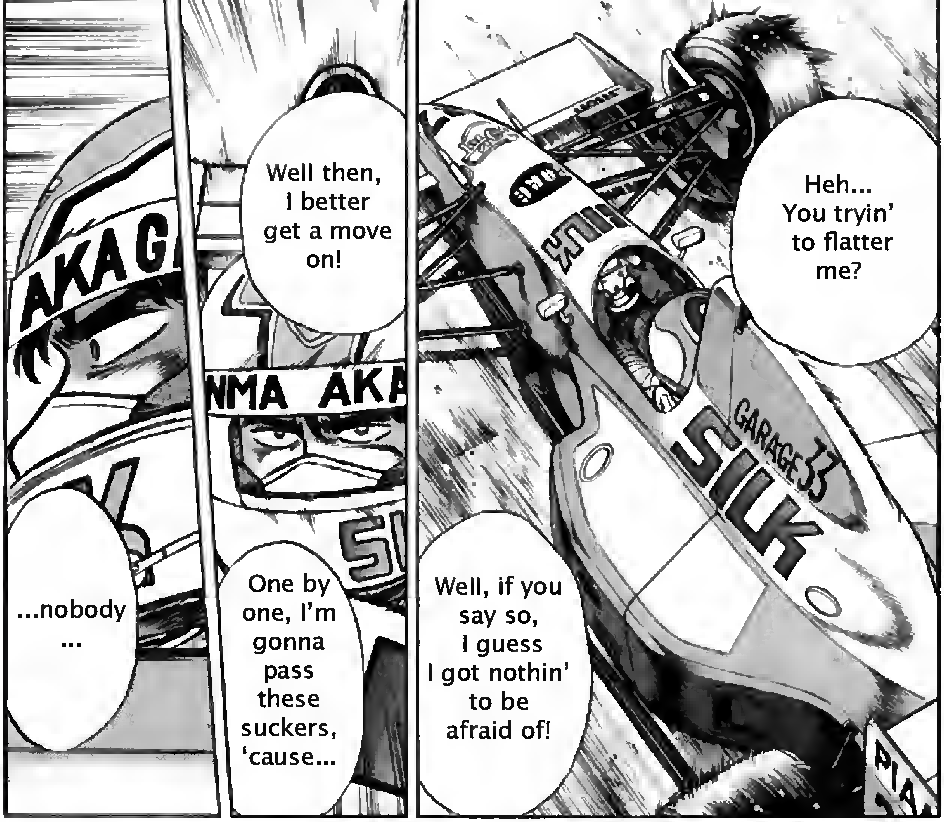
BRAAAH
ZOOOM
VRR

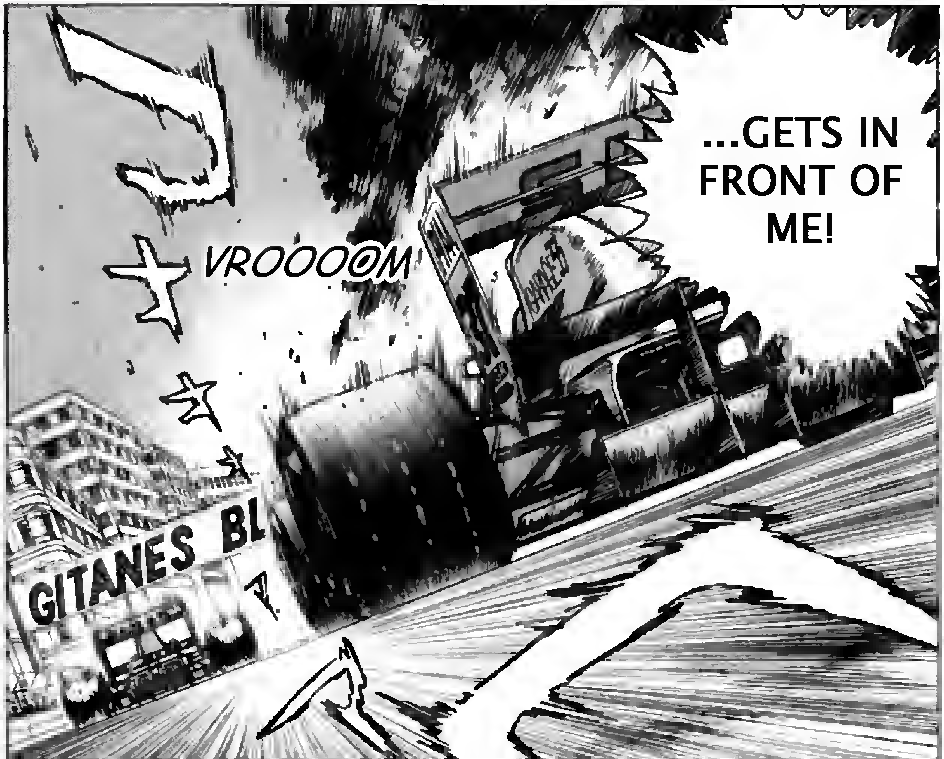

GUNMA AKAGI
VROOOM
We've reached the 15th lap! Mansell is in the lead, followed by Senna, then Schumacher, then Jesus, then Patrese, then Gunma!
ZOOOOOM

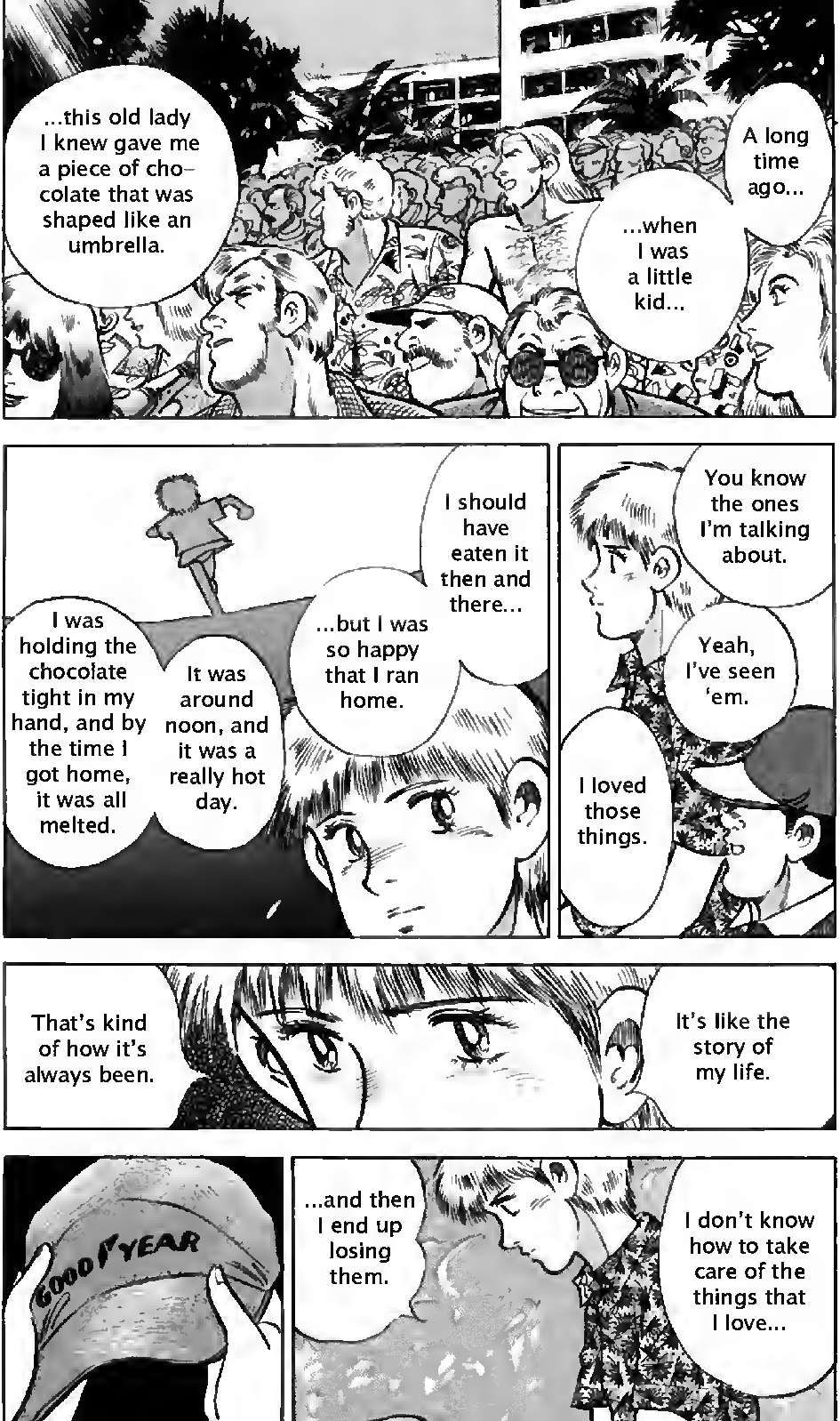
*Mu Friction between the road and the tires

The dolphin paint may have saved my ass and helped me put out the fastest time at the prelimi-nary, but...
...when it comes to the final...
ZOOOOM
Heh... This is a narrow track with low mu*.
Don't worry, Gunma! You were fastest at the preliminary!

ZOOOOM
None of that really matters at the final here in Monaco!
The car's top speed, the aerodynamics of the body...
It's skill that counts!
...the race is decided over who has the best technique!
I get it now!
WHISH
WHISH
Ain't that right, Tamotsu?
When it comes to pure skill, no one can top you, dude!
That's right!
That's why we have a chance at winning this thing!
At Monaco, it's the man that wins, not the car!


Well then, I better get a move on!
...nobody ...
One by one, I'm gonna pass these suckers, 'cause...
Heh... You tryin' to flatter me?
Well, if you say so, I guess I got nothin' to be afraid of!
GARAGE 33
SILK


...GETS IN FRONT OF ME!
VROOOOM
GITANES BL

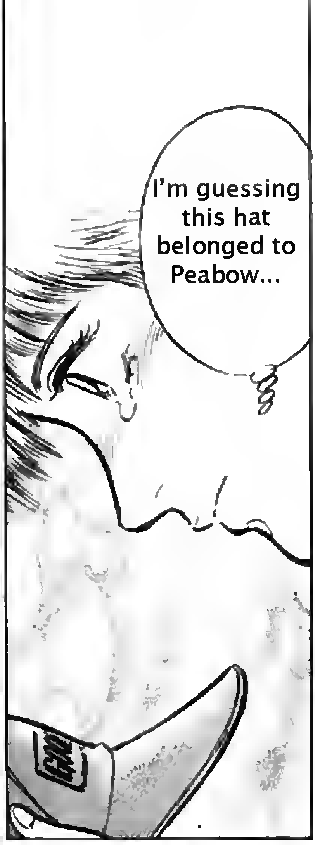

A long time ago...
...when I was a little kid...
...this old lady I knew gave me a piece of chocolate that was shaped like an umbrella.
I should have eaten it then and there...
...but I was so happy that I ran home.
It was around noon, and it was a really hot day.
I was holding the chocolate tight in my hand, and by the time I got home, it was all melted.
You know the ones I'm talking about.
Yeah, I've seen 'em.
I loved those things.
It's like the story of my life.
That's kind of how it's always been.
I don't know how to take care of the things that I love...
...and then I end up losing them.
GOODYEAR

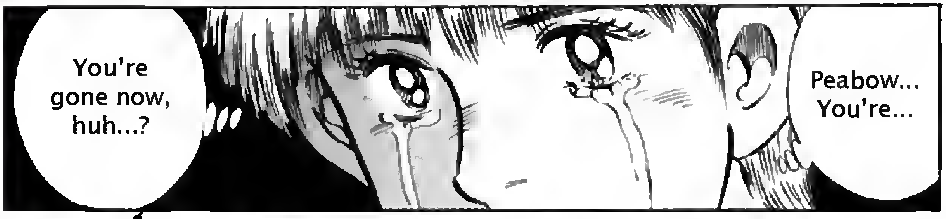
"I just wanted to give this to you..."

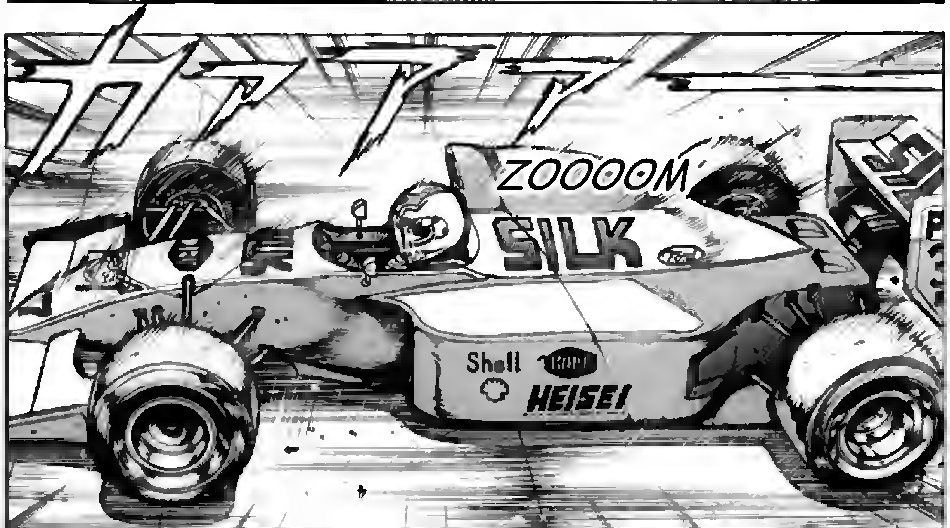
"This hat belonged to a boy that you loved."

"The boy died, didn't he?"

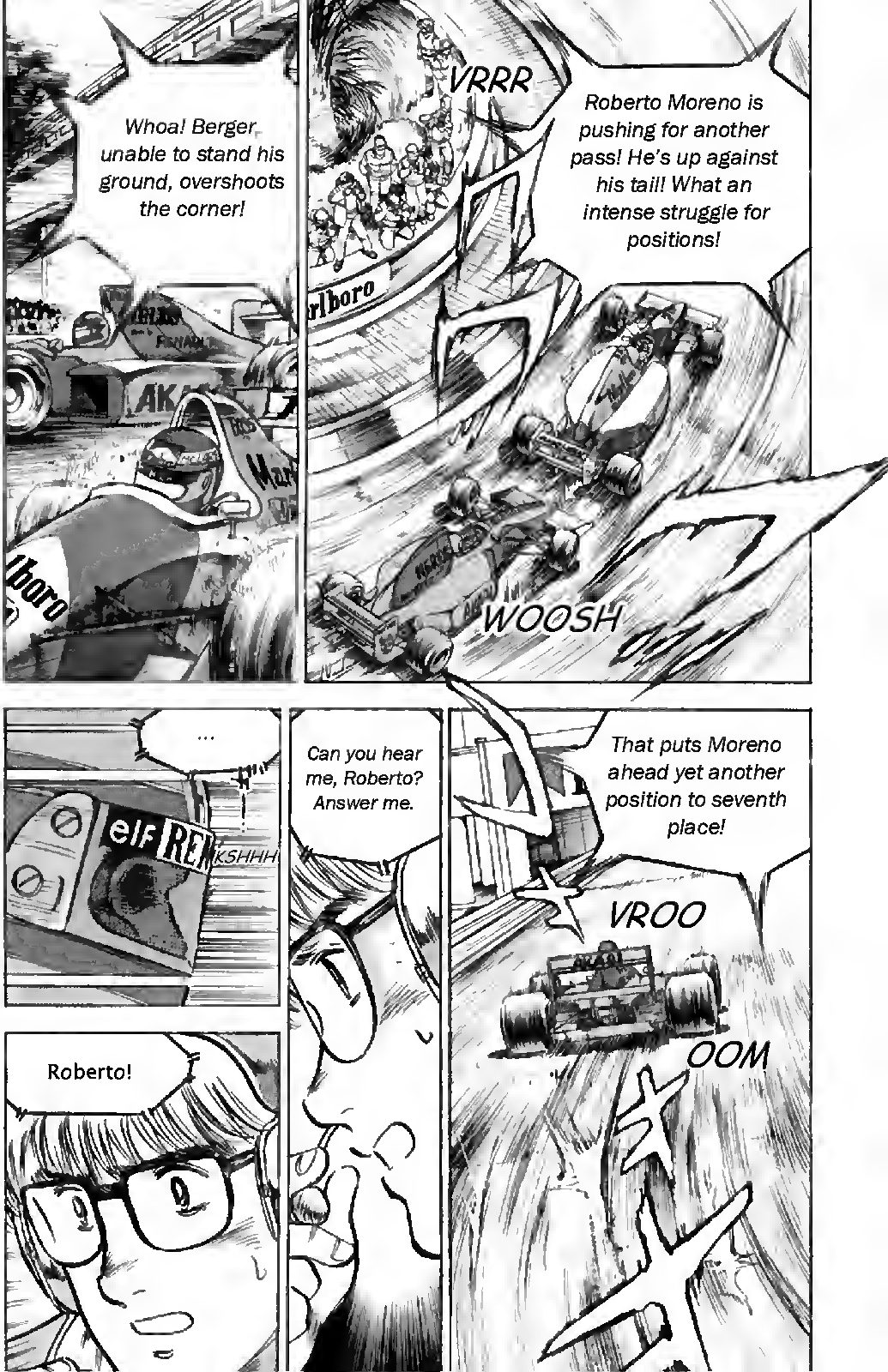
"I can't really remember,
but I'll take good care of this hat."

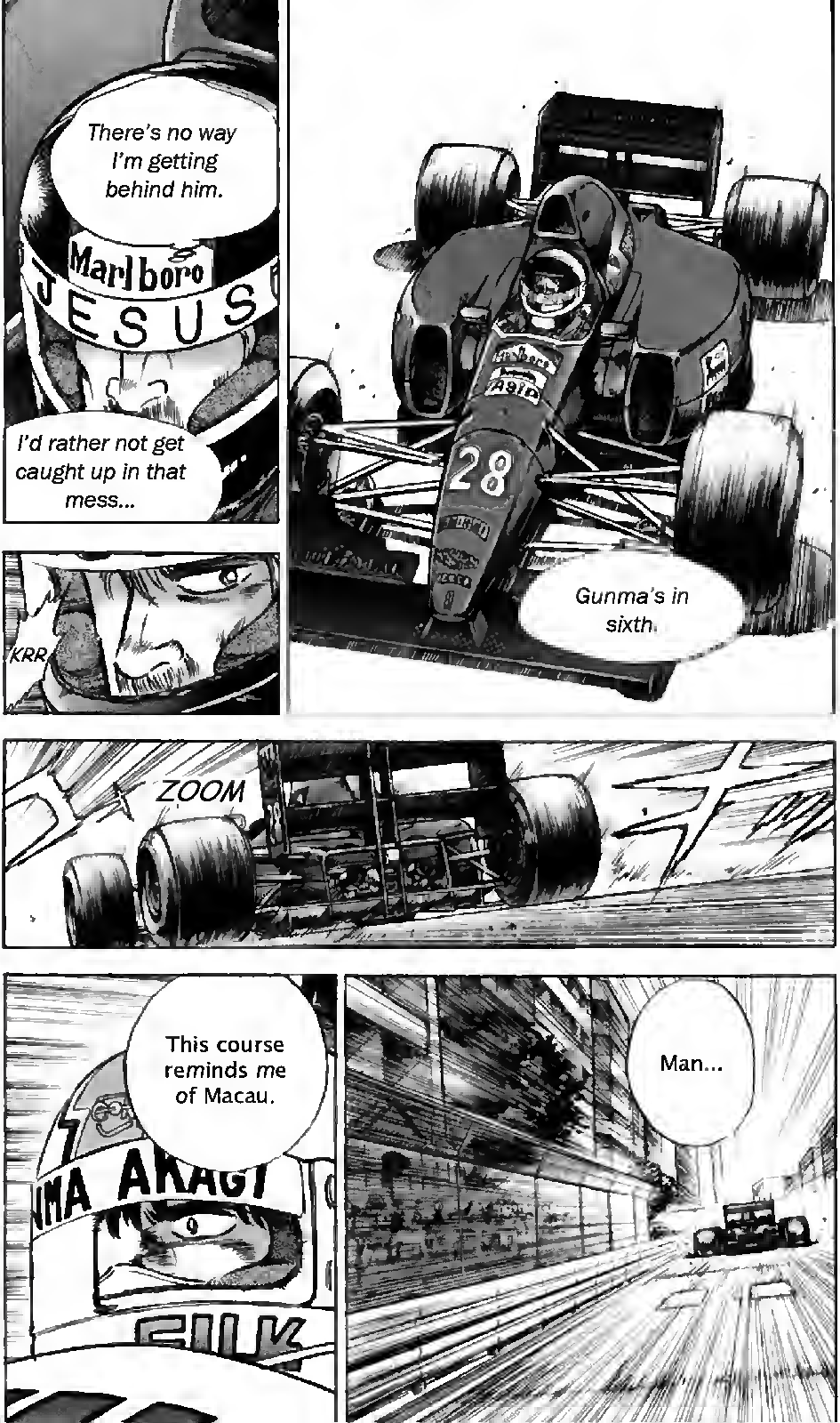


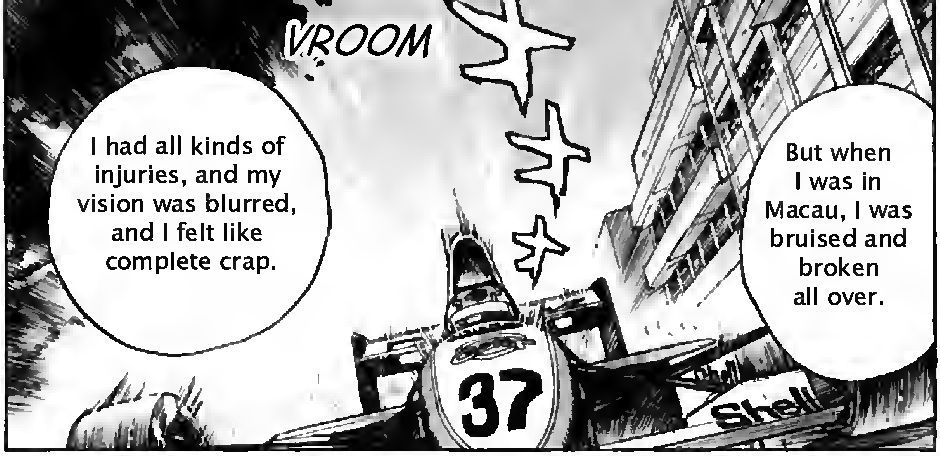


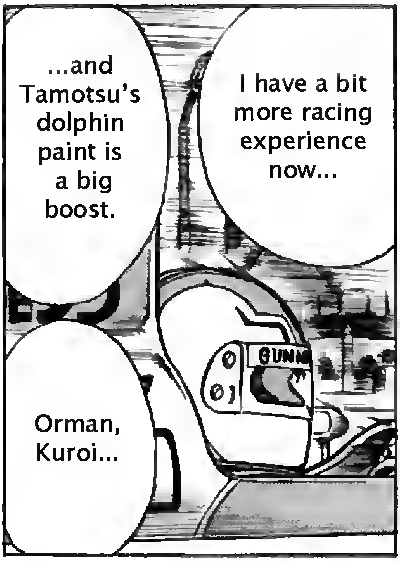


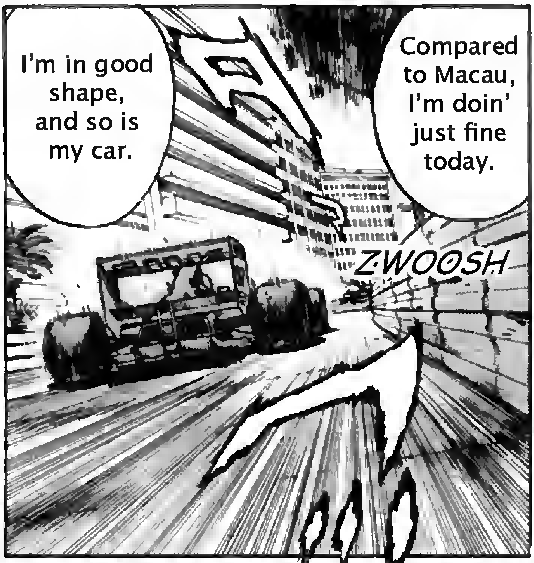
VRRR
BREEEHH
Metamorphose's Moreno just made a skillful pass, putting him in eighth!
RENAUL
Watching him race, it's like Roberto Moreno has become a completely different person here in Monaco!
Yeah ...
He just kept his helmet on, not saying a word...
It's hard to believe how nervous Moreno was before the race started.


Whoa! Berger unable to stand his ground, overshoots the corner!
VRRR
Roberto Moreno is pushing for another pass! He's up against his tail! What an intense struggle for positions!
WOOSH
That puts Moreno ahead yet another position to seventh place!
VROO
OOM
Can you hear me, Roberto? Answer me.
...
elf
KSHHH
Roberto!

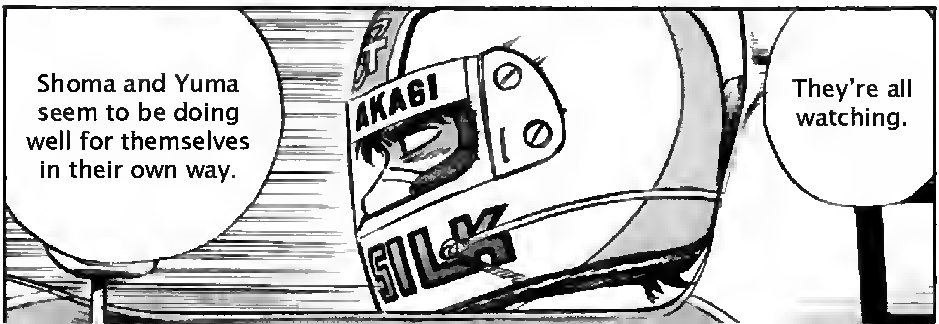

There's no way I'm getting behind him.
Marlboro
JESUS
I'd rather not get caught up in that mess...
KRR
28
Gunma's in sixth.
ZOOM
This course reminds me of Macau.
Man...


VROOM
I had all kinds of injuries, and my vision was blurred, and I felt like complete crap.
But when I was in Macau, I was bruised and broken all over.
37
Shell

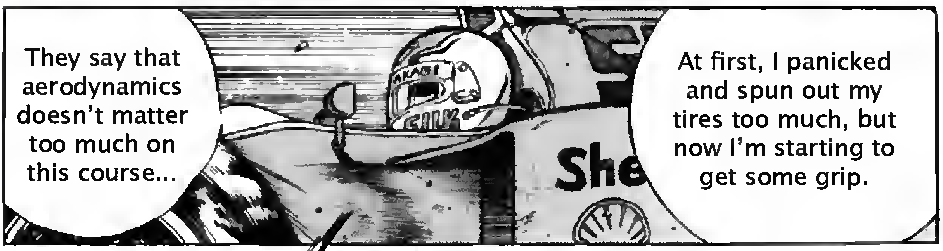

...and Tamotsu's dolphin paint is a big boost.
I have a bit more racing experience now...
Orman, Kuroi...


I'm in good shape, and so is my car.
Compared to Macau, I'm doin' just fine today.
ZWOOSH

Sako...
The Komori bunch, the old man Morioka...

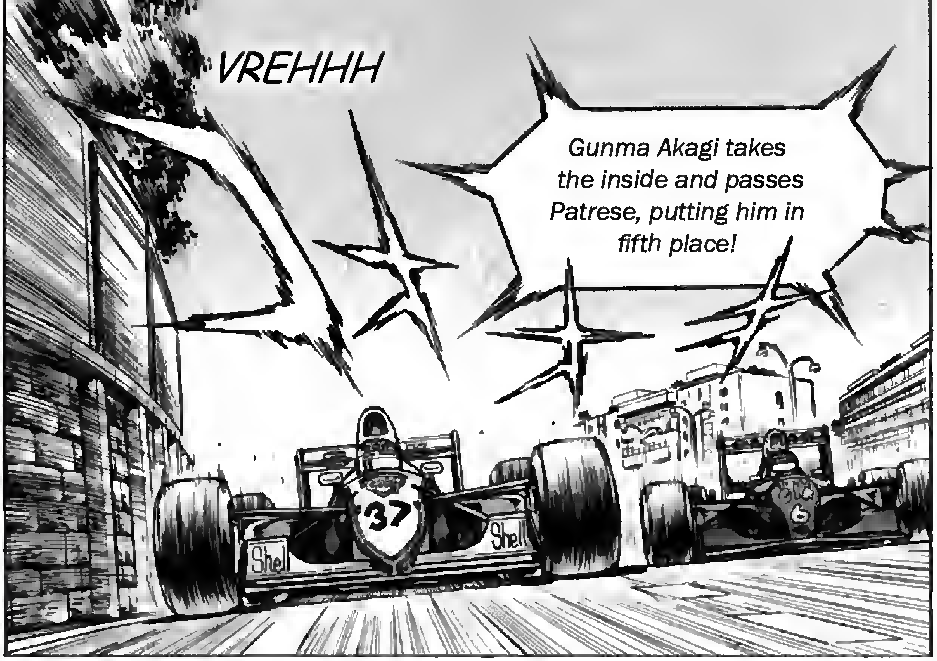

Shoma and Yuma seem to be doing well for themselves in their own way.
They're all watching.
AKAGI

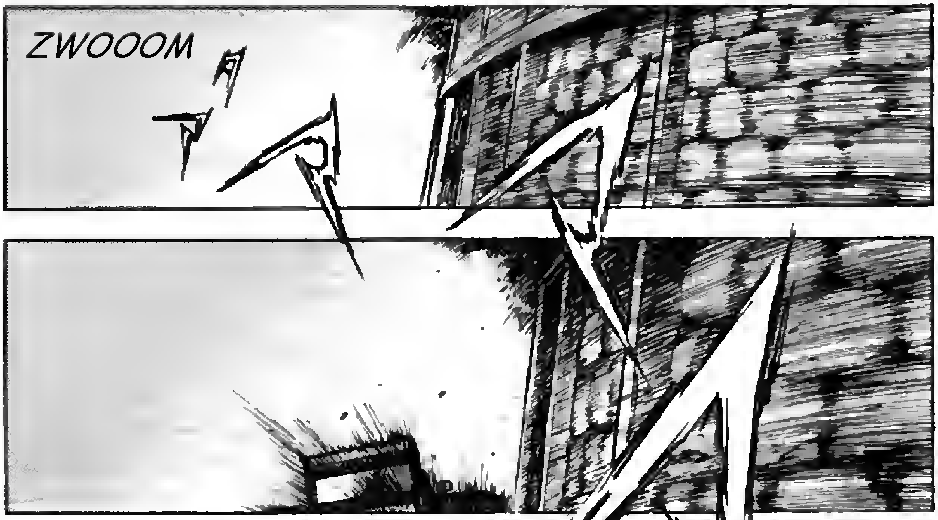
KRRR
I'm totally satisfied!
If you actually exist, God...
...let me tell you one thing.
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
WOOSH


They say that aerodynamics doesn't matter too much on this course...
At first, I panicked and spun out my tires too much, but now I'm starting to get some grip.

Go and pass the world's fastest men!
WOOSH
Slow and steady does it.
All right, Gunma Akagi...
...but I'm getting some good acceleration on the straights, where it really counts!
SILK

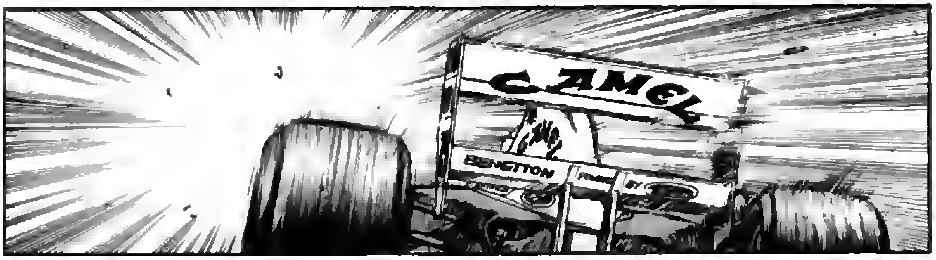
VRRRRSH
Canon

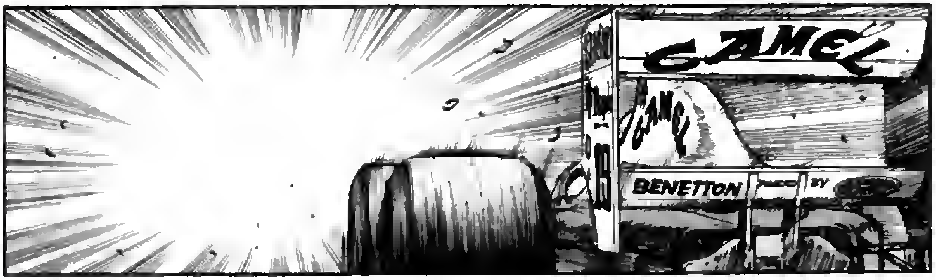

VREHHH
Gunma Akagi takes the inside and passes Patrese, putting him in fifth place!
37
Shell
Shell

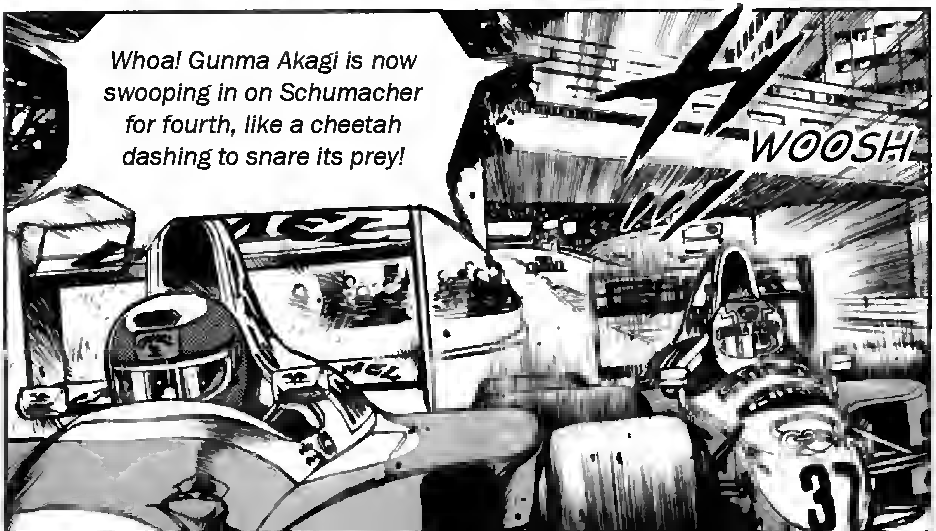

ZWOOOM

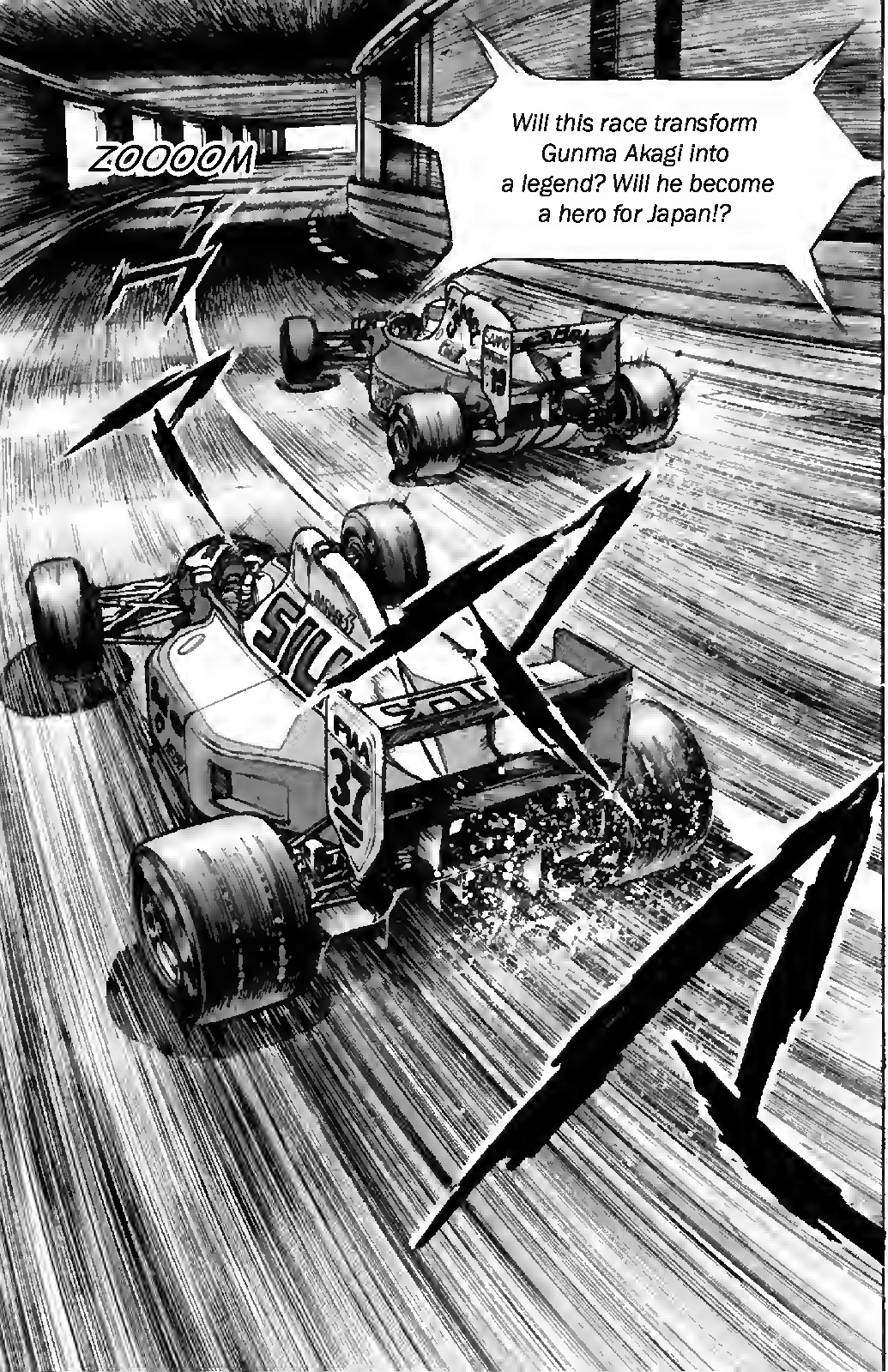
Schu-macher, huh?
GUNMA AKAGI
Who's in fourth!?

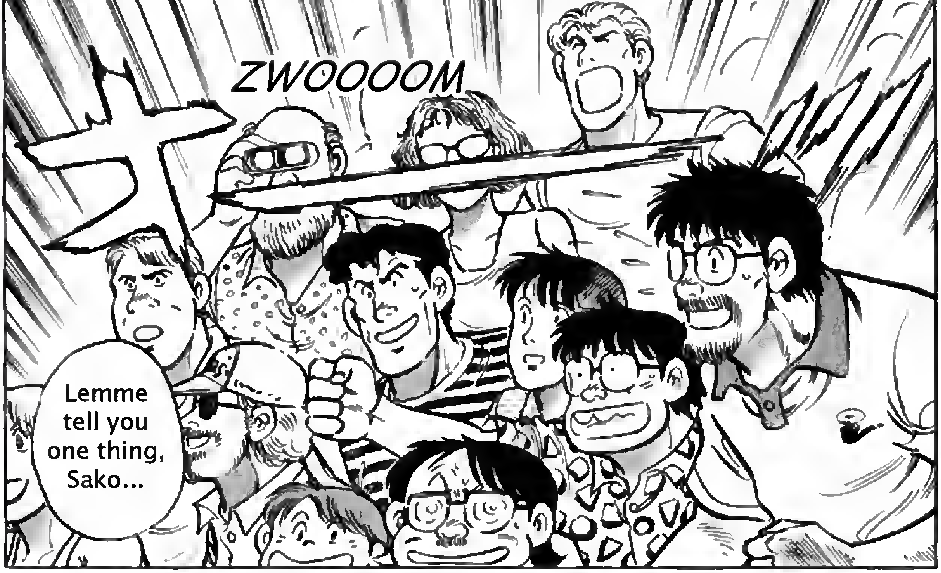
CAMEL
BENETTON

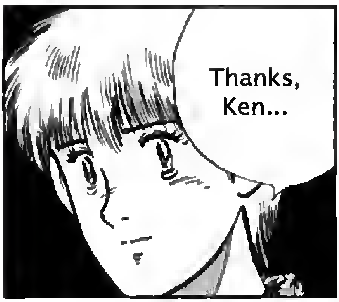

CAMEL
BENETTON

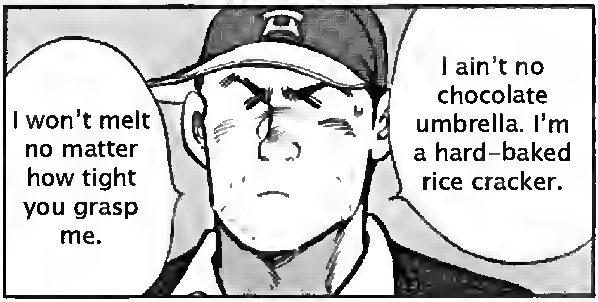

CAMEL
BENETTON


Whoa! Gunma Akagi is now swooping in on Schumacher for fourth, like a cheetah dashing to snare its prey!
WOOSH
37


ZOOOOM
Will this race transform Gunma Akagi into a legend? Will he become a hero for Japan!?


ZWOOOOM
Lemme tell you one thing, Sako...

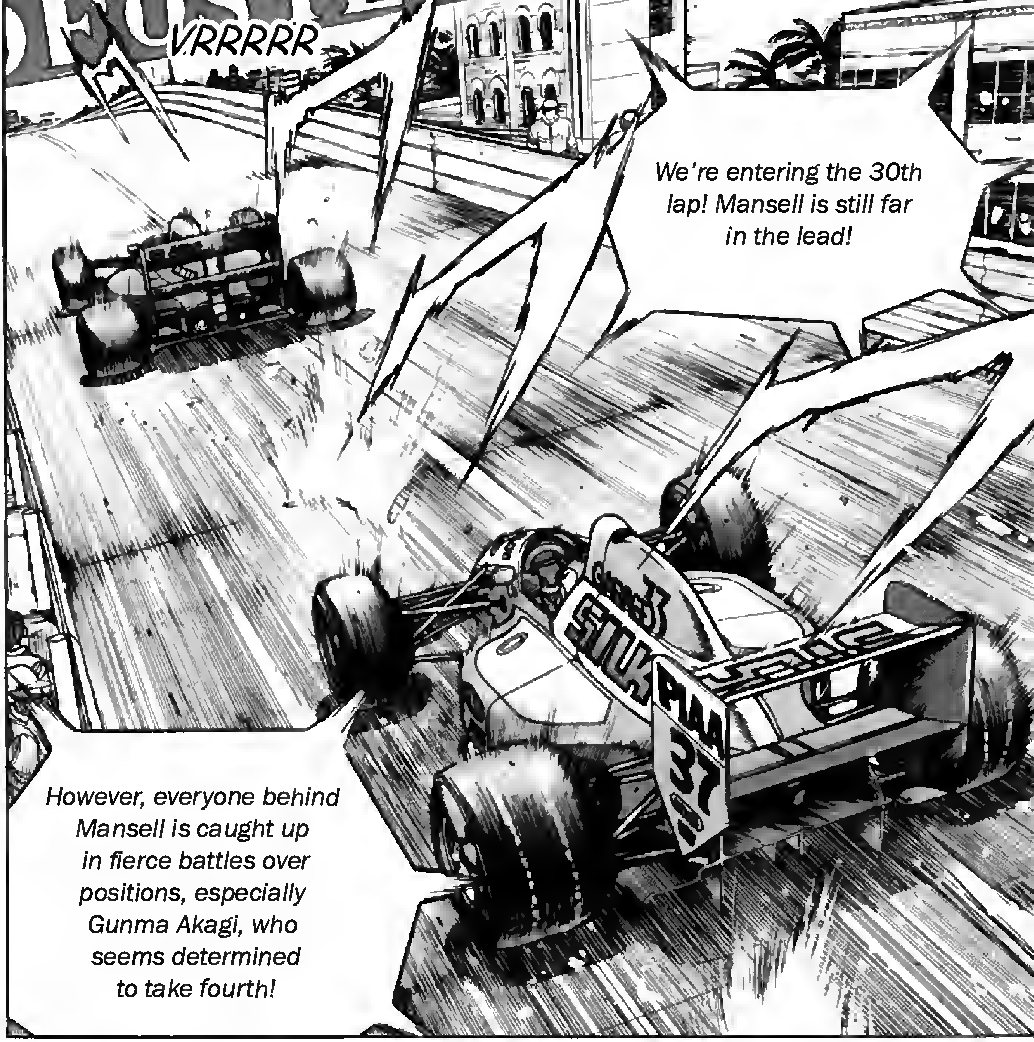

Thanks, Ken...


I won't melt no matter how tight you grasp me.
I ain't no chocolate umbrella. I'm a hard-baked rice cracker.

How many more do I gotta pass!?
NMA AKAGI
SILK

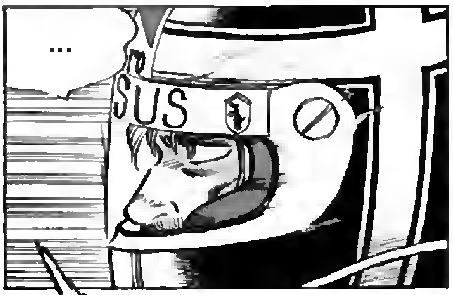
He did it! Gunma Akagi made the pass!
VRRRROOM
37

Chapter 5:
At the Lord's Service

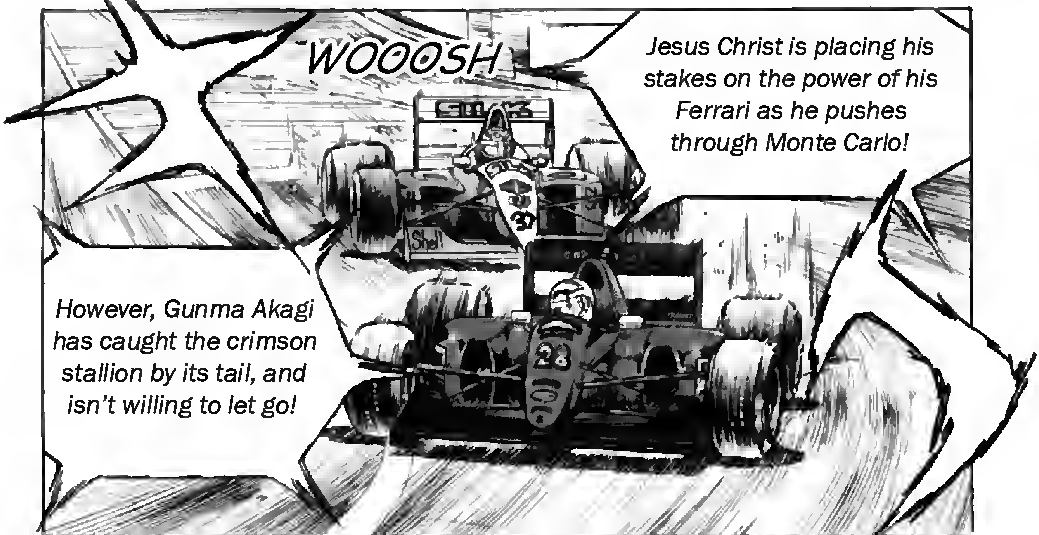

VRRRRR
We're entering the 30th lap! Mansell is still far in the lead!
However, everyone behind Mansell is caught up in fierce battles over positions, especially Gunma Akagi, who seems determined to take fourth!

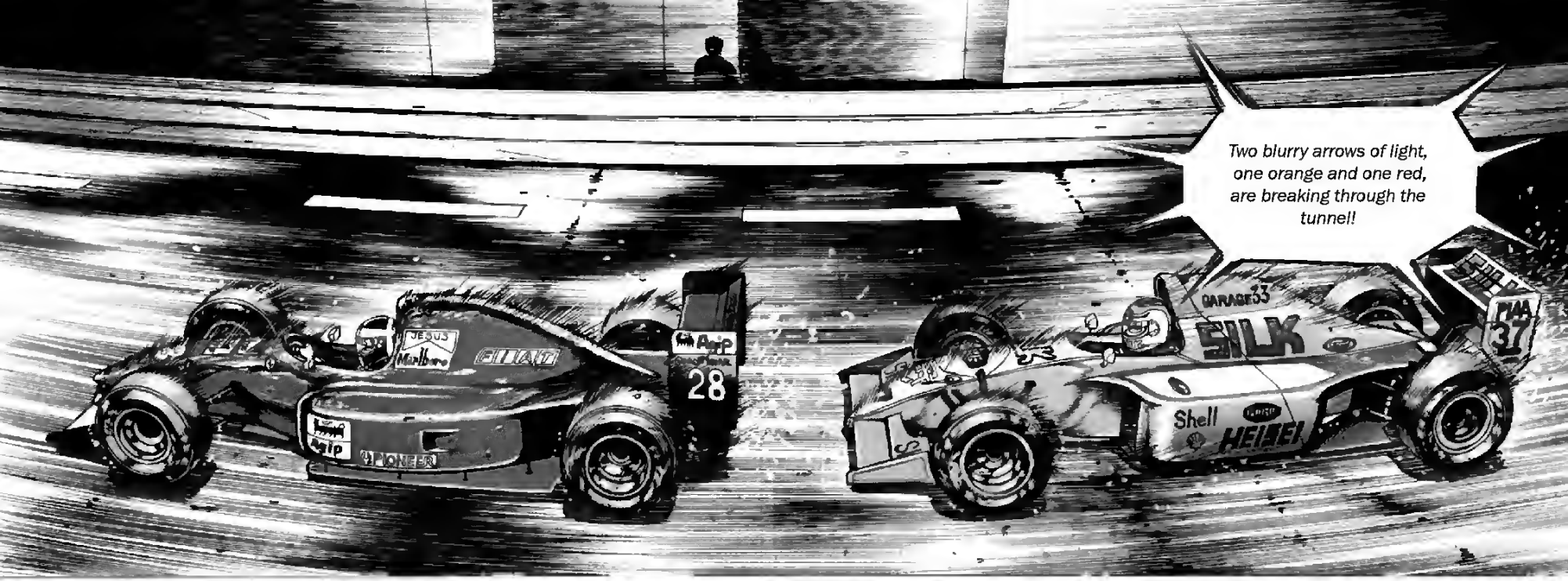
Who's next!?
Marlboro
JESUS
Jesus!

WOOSH
VREHH
SILK

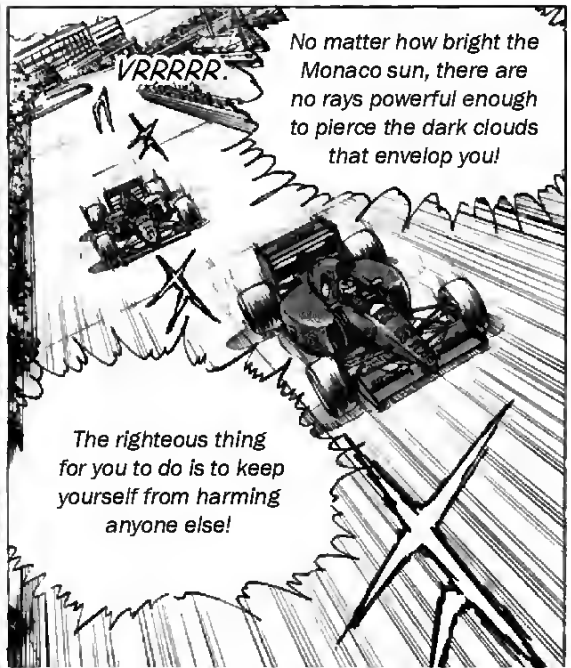

...
SUS

NMA AKAGI
I got you now, Son of God!
SILK


WOOOSH
Jesus Christ is placing his stakes on the power of his Ferrari as he pushes through Monte Carlo!
However, Gunma Akagi has caught the crimson stallion by its tail, and isn't willing to let go!
SILK
Shell


Two blurry arrows of light, one orange and one red, are breaking through the tunnel!
JESUS
Marlboro
28
SILK
Shell
HEIKEI
37

You must leave this realm alone...
JESU
...without dragging anyone down with you!

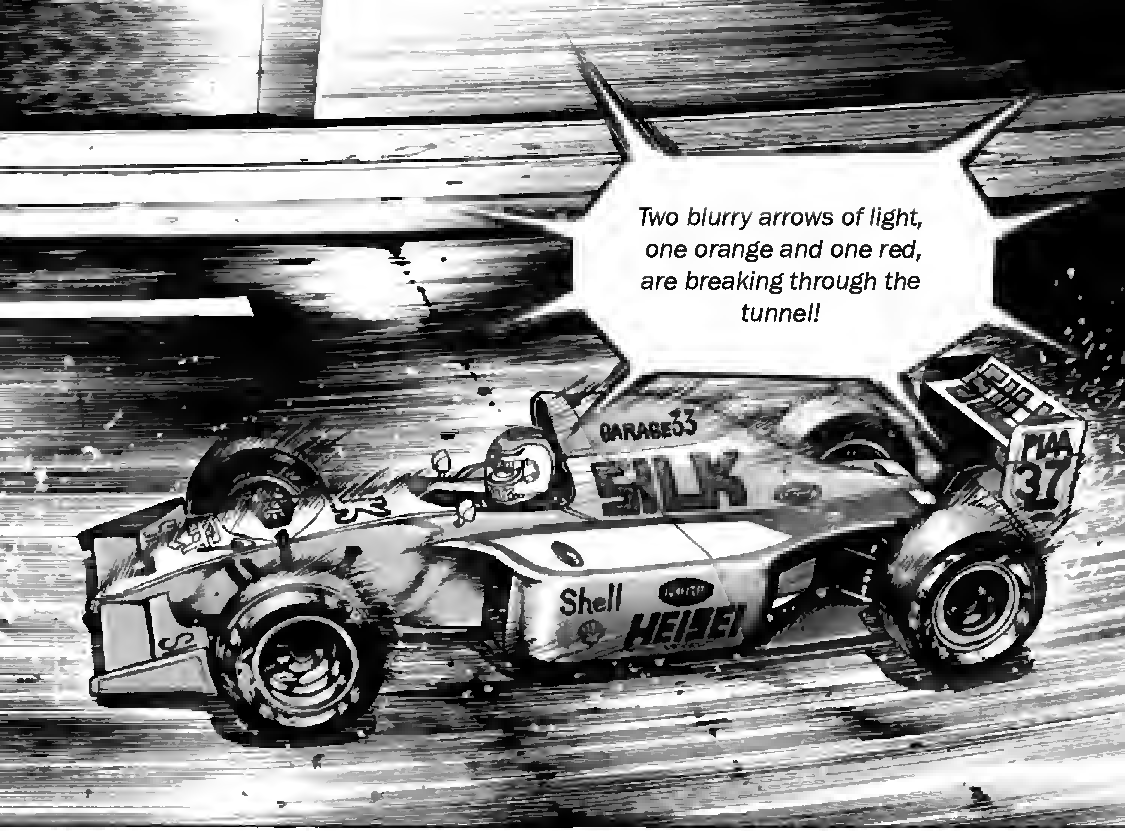

VRRRRR.
No matter how bright the Monaco sun, there are no rays powerful enough to pierce the dark clouds that envelop you!
The righteous thing for you to do is to keep yourself from harming anyone else!

Don't come near me, Gunma Akagi!

I've warned you plenty of times!
You should have never entered this race!

SKRSH

WOOSH

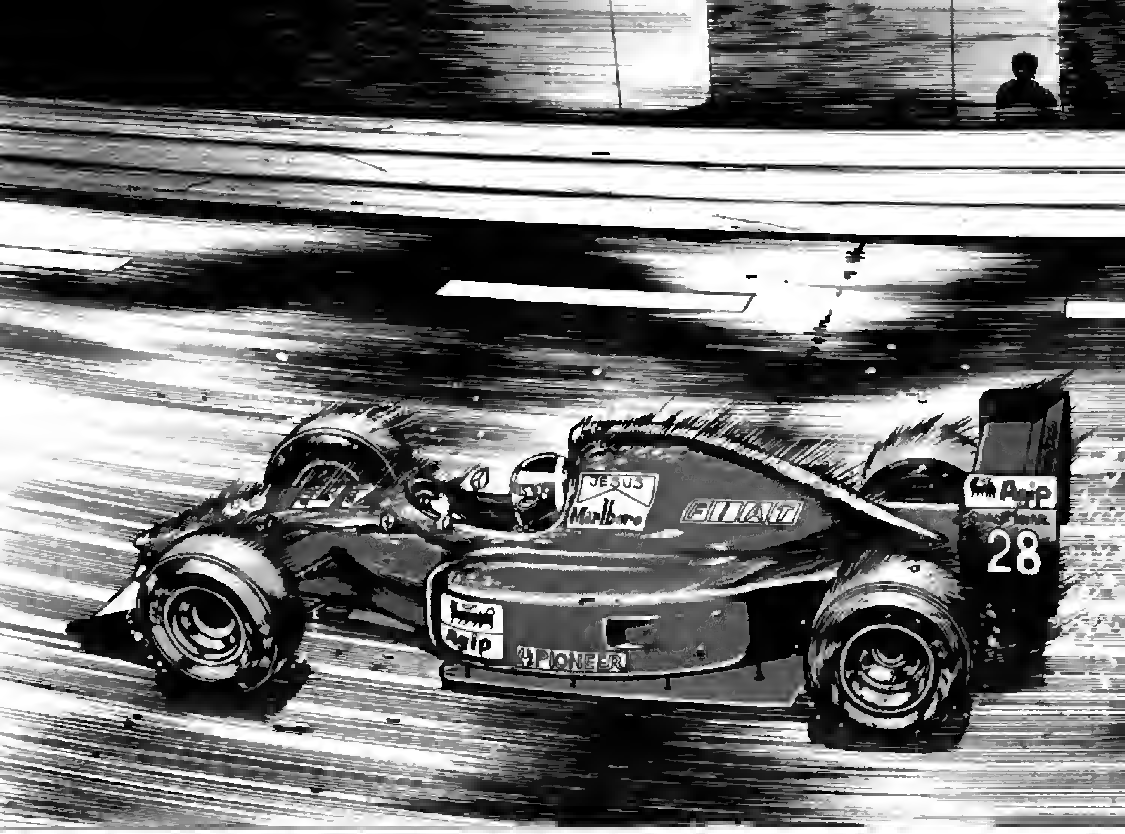

Two blurry arrows of light, one orange and one red, are breaking through the tunnel!
GARAGE 33
SILK
Shell
HEIGEI
SILK
37

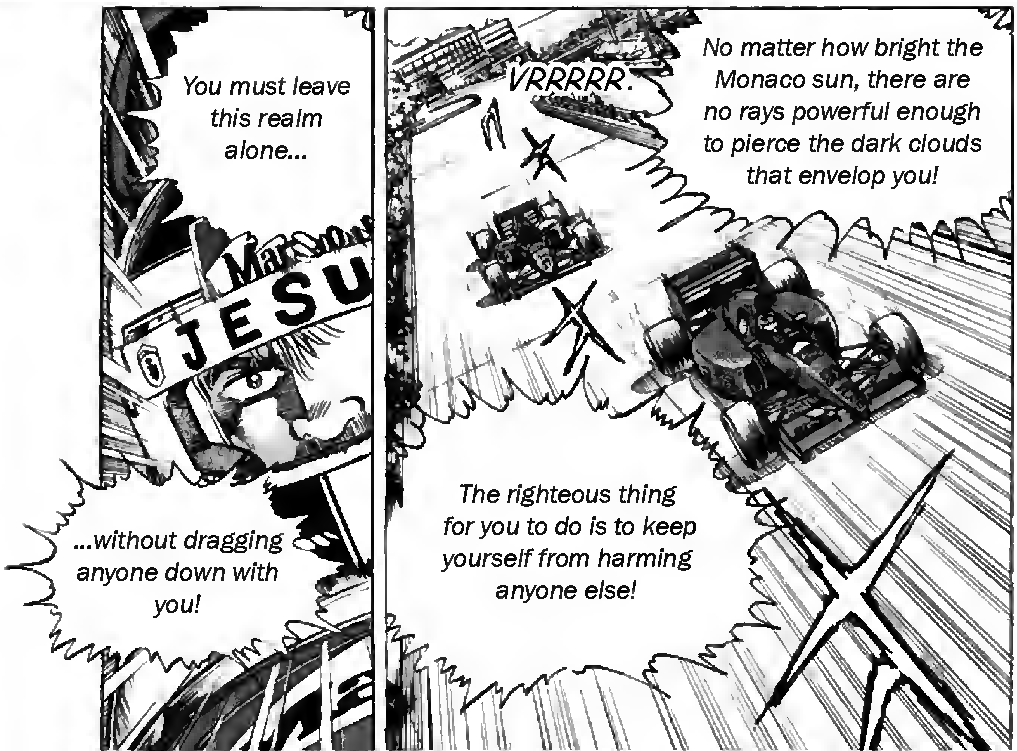
Don't come near me, Gunma Akagi!
JES

I've warned you plenty of times!
You should have never entered this race!

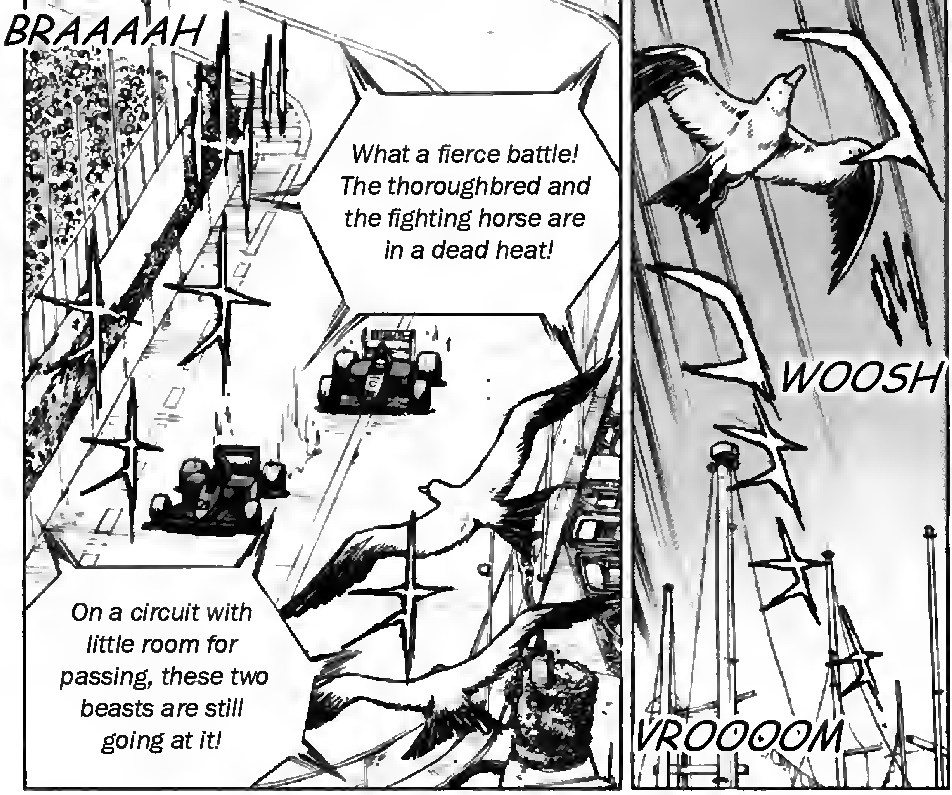
SKRSH

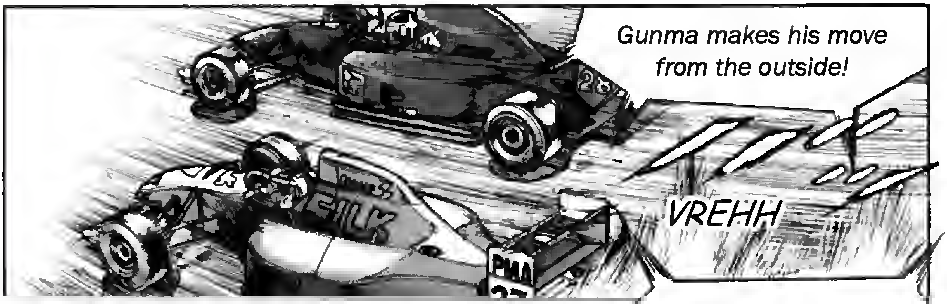
WOOSH


JESUS
Marlboro
FIAT
28
PIONEER


You must leave this realm alone...
JESU
...without dragging anyone down with you!
VRRRRR.
No matter how bright the Monaco sun, there are no rays powerful enough to pierce the dark clouds that envelop you!
The righteous thing for you to do is to keep yourself from harming anyone else!

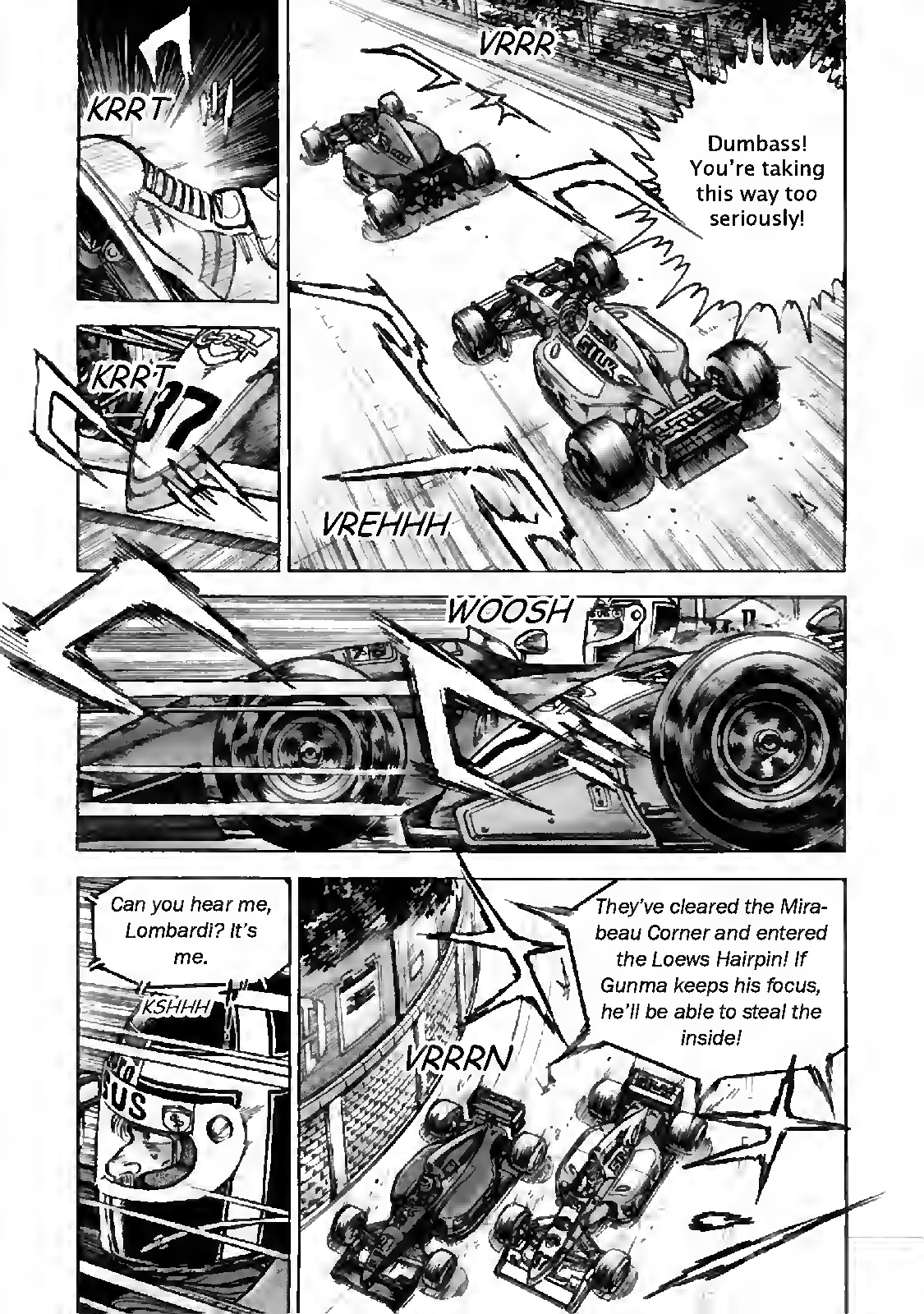
FLICK
Let's take you to the delivery room.
Gunma ...
Protect us... Protect me and Ruri...
...
Okay...


BRAAAAH
What a fierce battle! The thoroughbred and the fighting horse are in a dead heat!
On a circuit with little room for passing, these two beasts are still going at it!
WOOSH
VROOOOM


Gunma makes his move from the outside!
VREHH

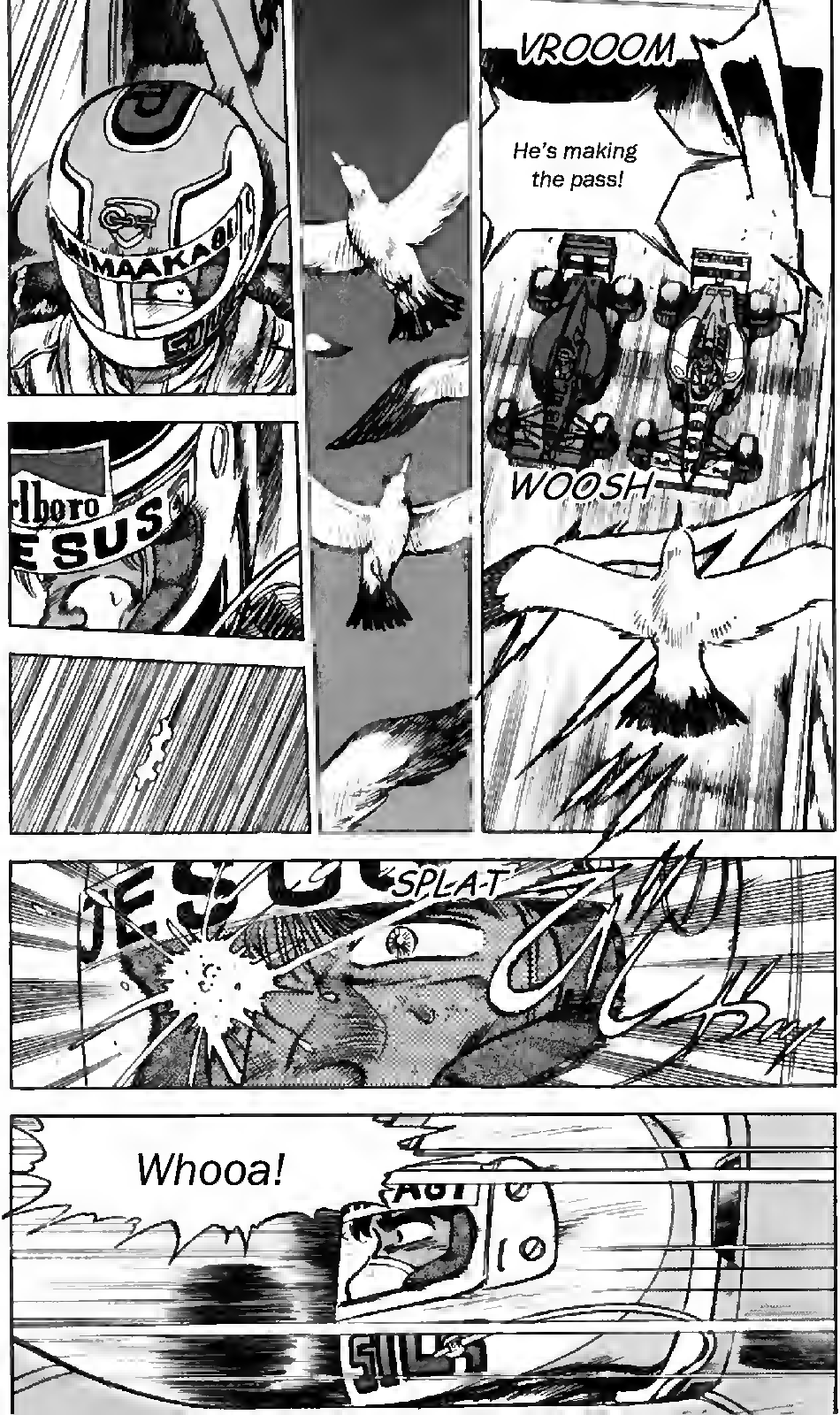
Jesus slides his tail toward the outside!
KRRR
Gunma can't quite make the pass!

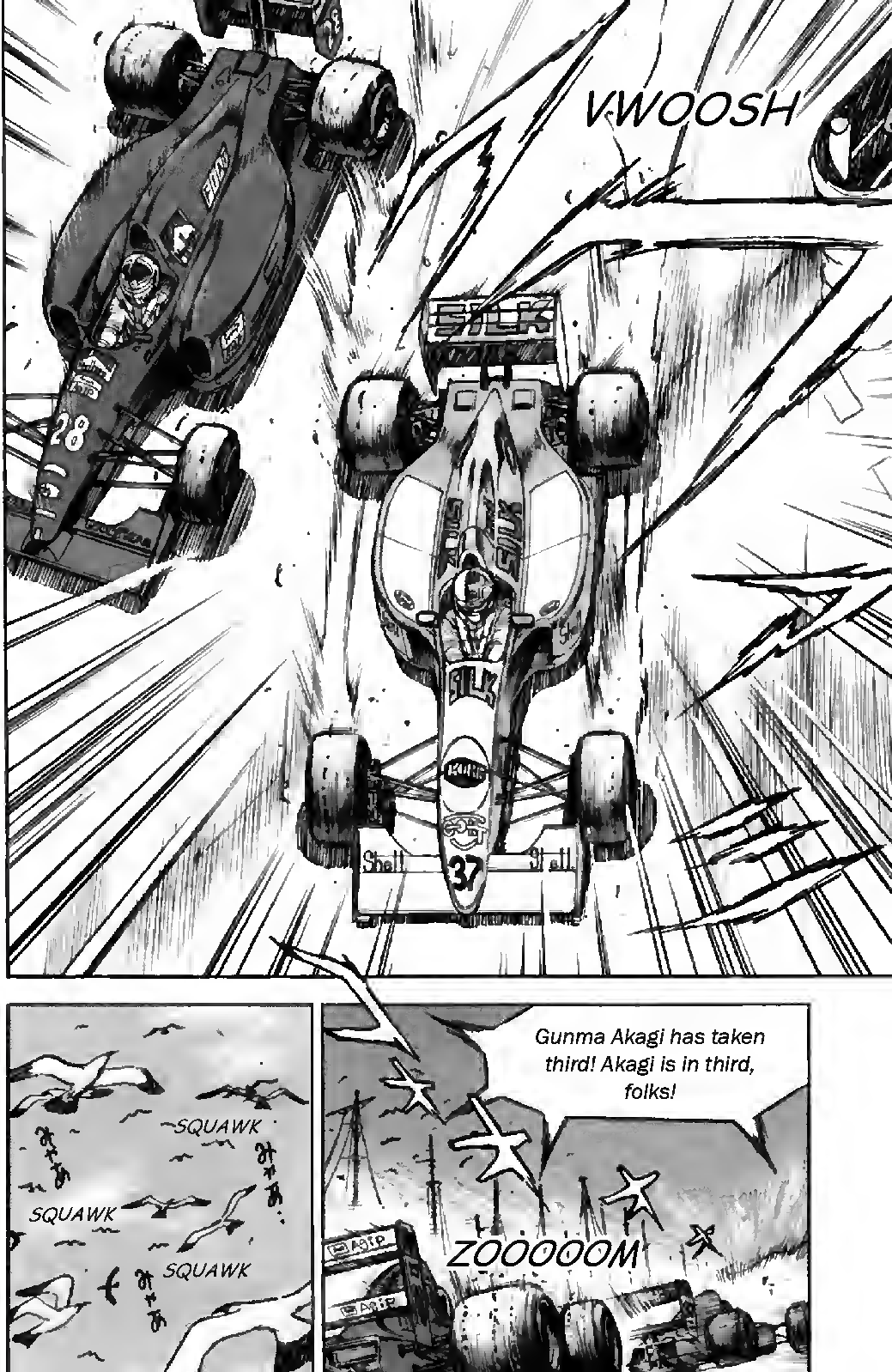
THUMP
Not bad, Jesus! Did you grow a pair overnight or somethin'!?
WOOSH
VREHHH
He's running so close to the fence, he's even giving the officials a scare!
What an incredible struggle for third!
Huh!?
FWOOSH
Shel!


KRRT
VRRR
Dumbass! You're taking this way too seriously!
KRRT
37
VREHHH
WOOSH
Can you hear me, Lombardi? It's me.
KSHHH
RUS
They've cleared the Mirabeau Corner and entered the Loews Hairpin! If Gunma keeps his focus, he'll be able to steal the inside!
VRRRN

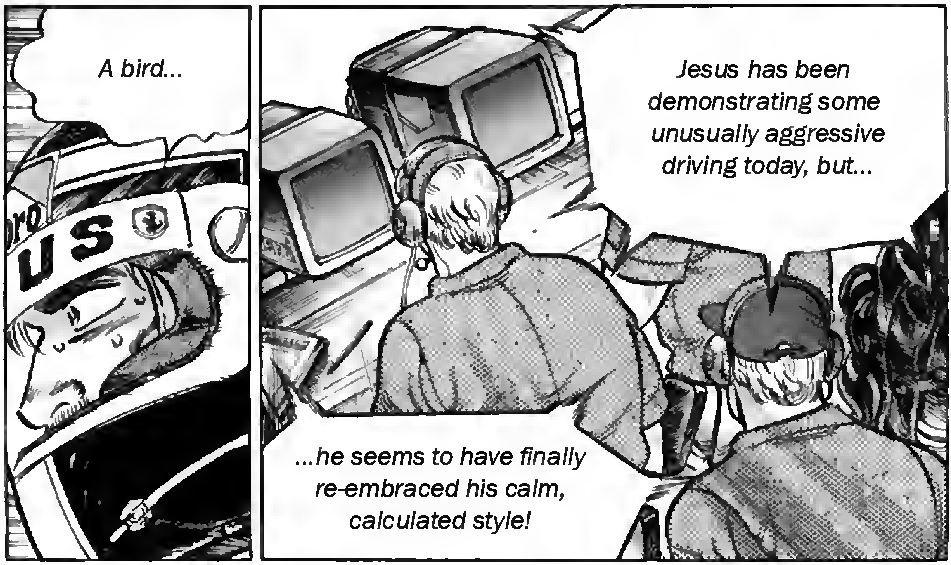
BEEP
Don't worry, I'm just gonna fall back a position and survey the situation.
He'll end up blasting through either way!
Jesus...
!?
KSHHH
I can't keep messing around with this guy...
I'm gonna let him pass me just to be safe
BEEP

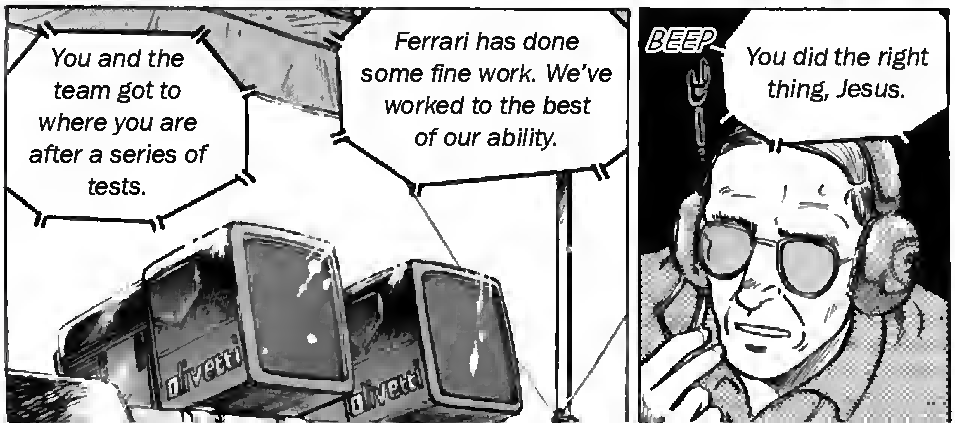
Gunma Akagi takes the inside!
VREHHH

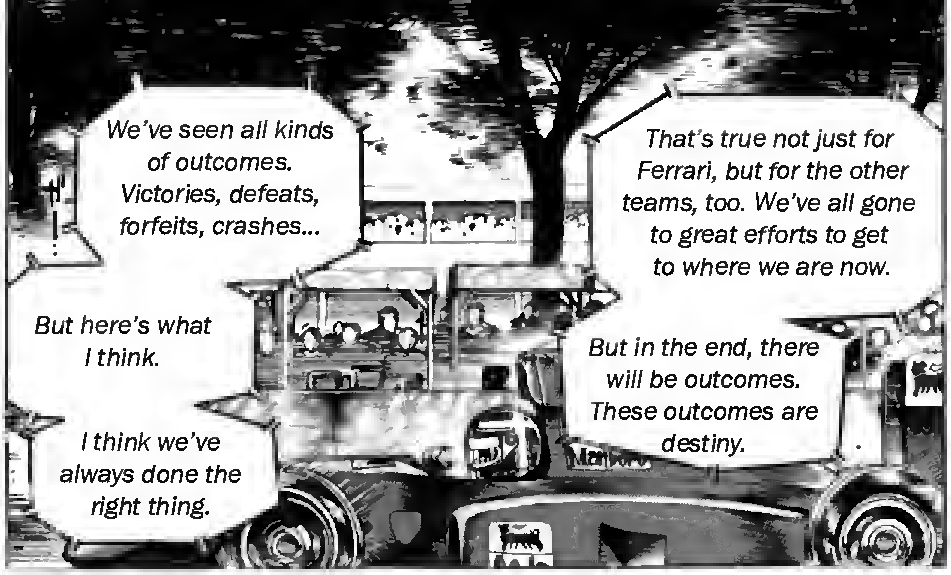

VROOOM
He's making the pass!
WOOSH
SPLAT
Whooa!


VWOOSH
SILK
28
37
Shell
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
Gunma Akagi has taken third! Akagi is in third, folks!
ZOOOOOM

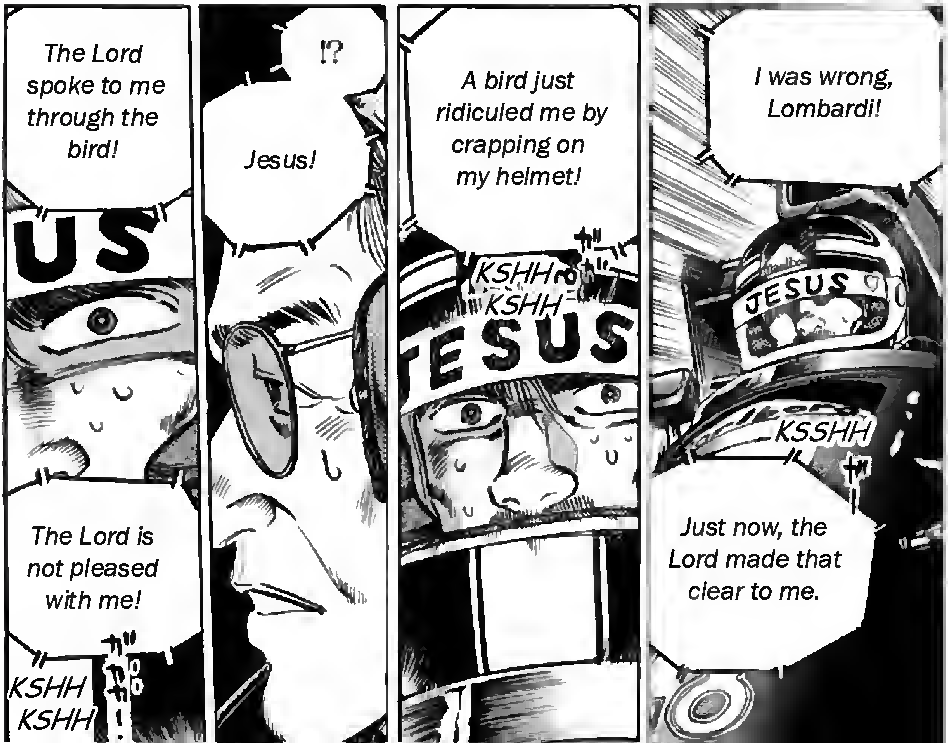
Jesus Christ, unable to handle the pressure put on him by Gunma Akagi, seems to have given up his position!
A bird...
A bird just dropped a deuce on me...
Urgh...
STRIP
Marlboro
JESUS


A bird...
Jesus has been demonstrating some unusually aggressive driving today, but...
...he seems to have finally re-embraced his calm, calculated style!


You and the team got to where you are after a series of tests.
Ferrari has done some fine work. We've worked to the best of our ability.
olivetti
BEEP
You did the right thing, Jesus.

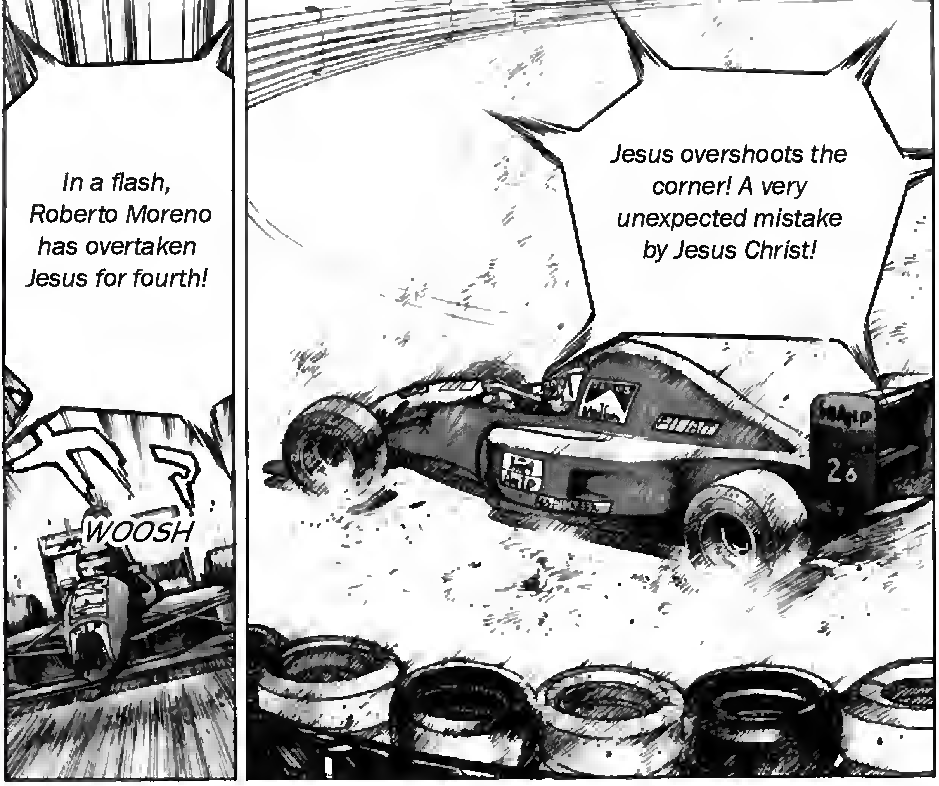

We've seen all kinds of outcomes. Victories, defeats, forfeits, crashes...
That's true not just for Ferrari, but for the other teams, too. We've all gone to great efforts to get to where we are now.
But here's what I think.
But in the end, there will be outcomes. These outcomes are destiny.
I think we've always done the right thing.

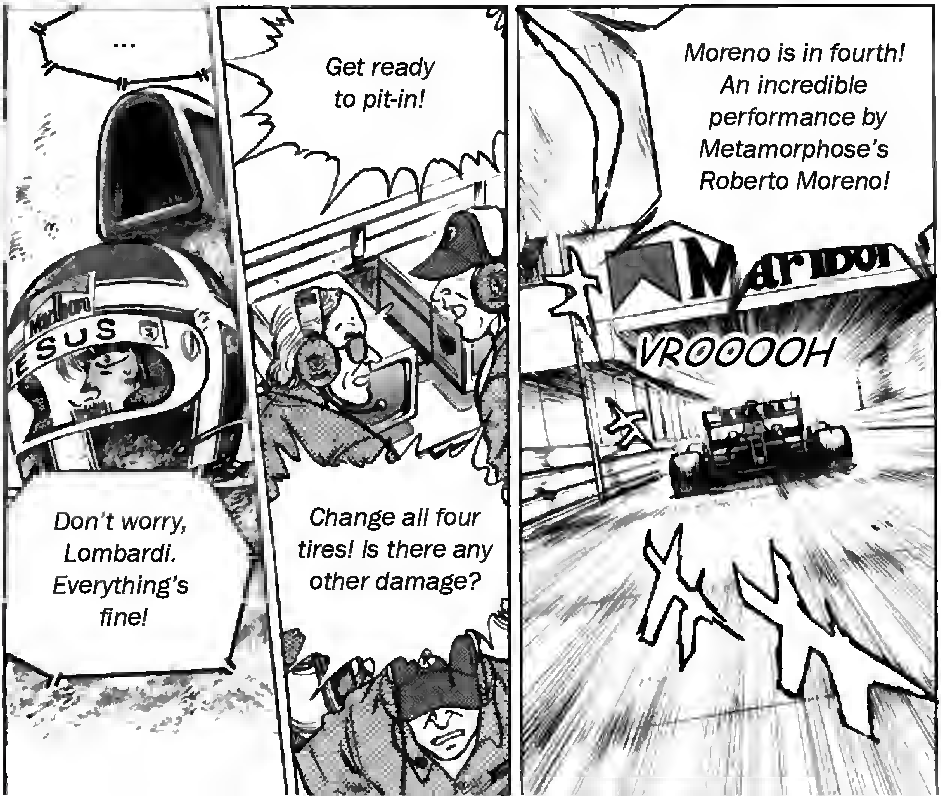
BEEP
No!
Everything we've done has been righteous in the face of destiny!
KSSHH


The Lord spoke to me through the bird!
US
The Lord is not pleased with me!
KSHH KSHH
!?
Jesus!
A bird just ridiculed me by crapping on my helmet!
KSHH KSHH
JESUS
I was wrong, Lombardi!
JESUS
KSSHH
Just now, the Lord made that clear to me.

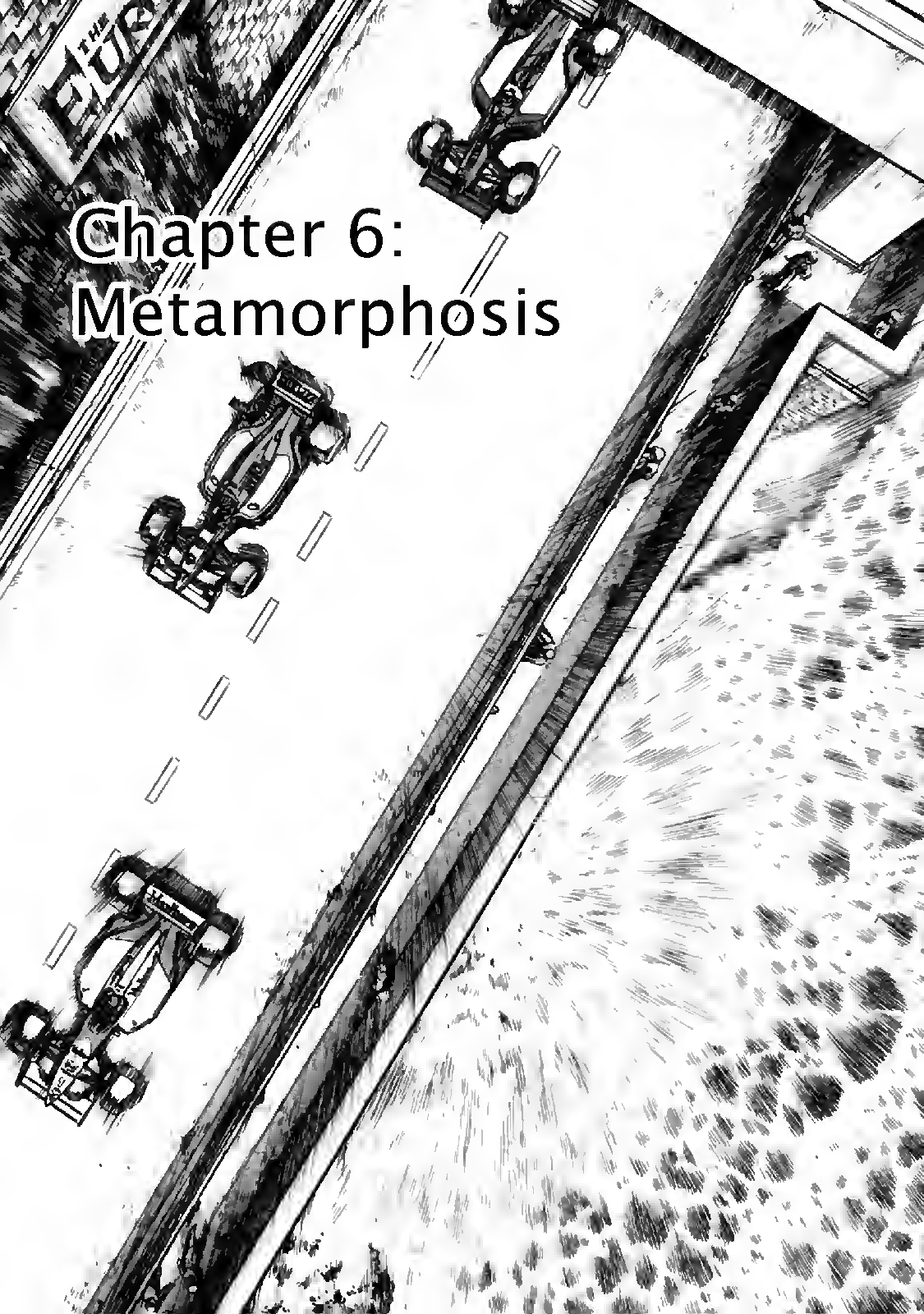
You're wrong!
Destiny is a fickle thing!
Don't look too much into the outcome, Jesus! The outcome does not reflect on the righteousness of our actions!
KRR T
KRR
Get out of here with that nonsense! A bird crapping on you means nothing!
BRAAH
SCREECH
All this time, I've heeded his word. In return, I've seen the most favorable of outcomes!
All along, I've been in contact with God...

SCRÉEK
I can't bear to be abandoned by the Lord now!
KSHH
28
SKRRRK
Jesus!


In a flash, Roberto Moreno has overtaken Jesus for fourth!
WOOSH
Jesus overshoots the corner! A very unexpected mistake by Jesus Christ!
26

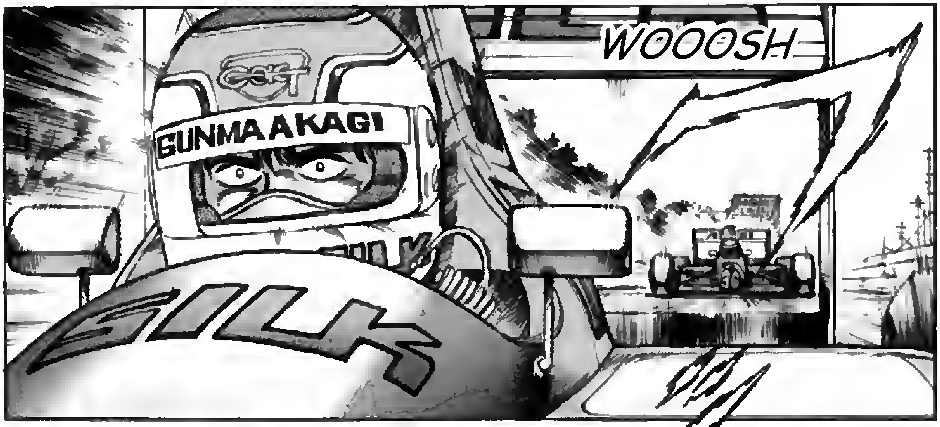

...
Don't worry, Lombardi. Everything's fine!
Get ready to pit-in!
Change all four tires! Is there any other damage?
Moreno is in fourth! An incredible performance by Metamorphose's Roberto Moreno!
Marlboro
VROOOOH

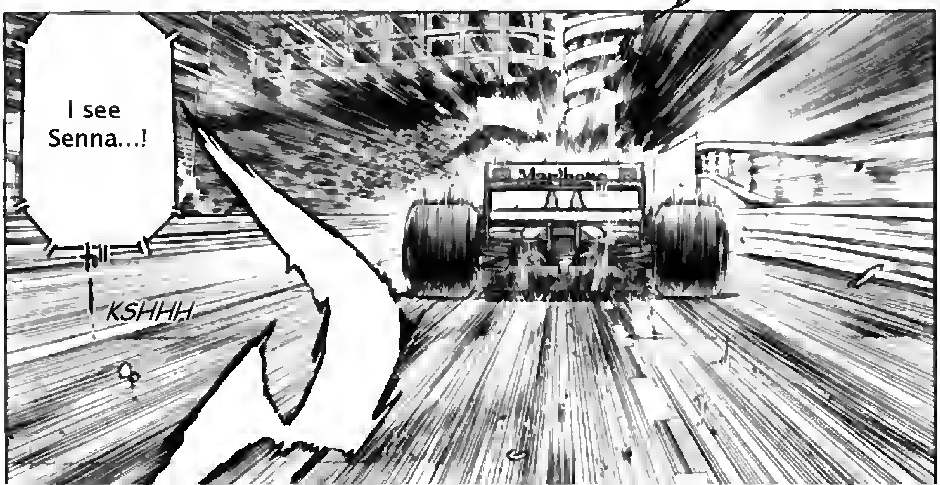
Marl
ZOOOOM
I'm going to pass Gunma Akagi one more time!
Marlboro
JESUS
Damn... What luck...!
Every time I drive along the beach, I get covered in bird crap!
That's right.
STRIP
Who's next, Tamotsu? Senna!?
GUNMA AKAGI

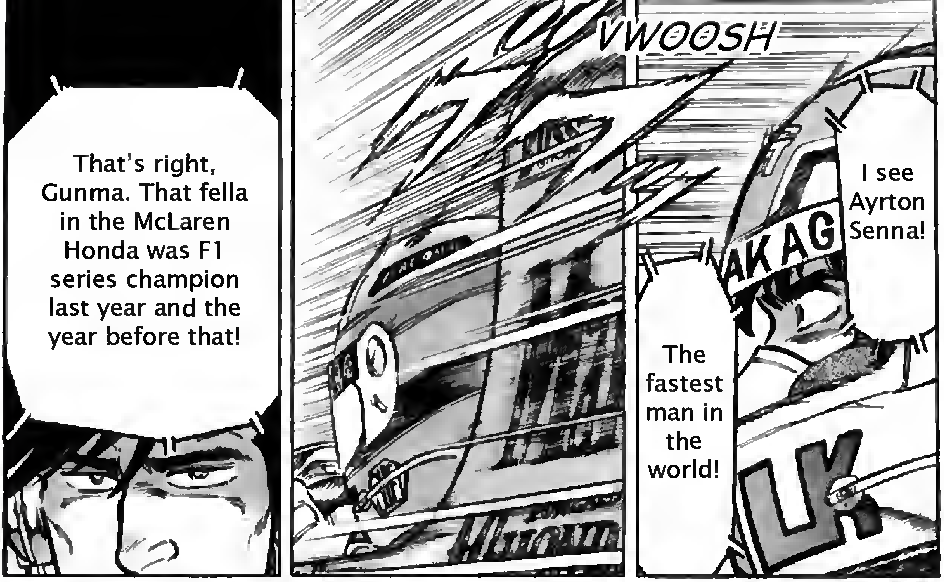


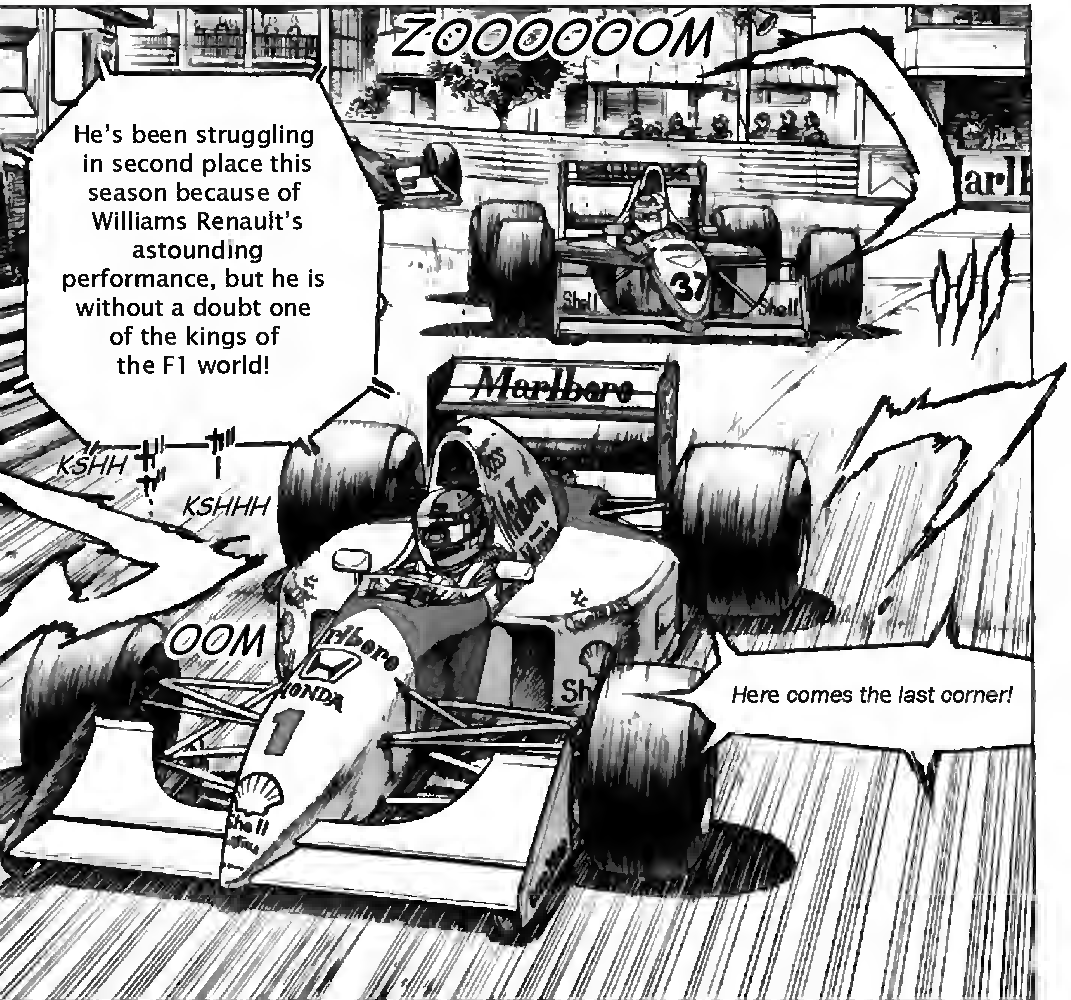
Chapter 6: Metamorphosis

VROOOM
There he is.
I see him...

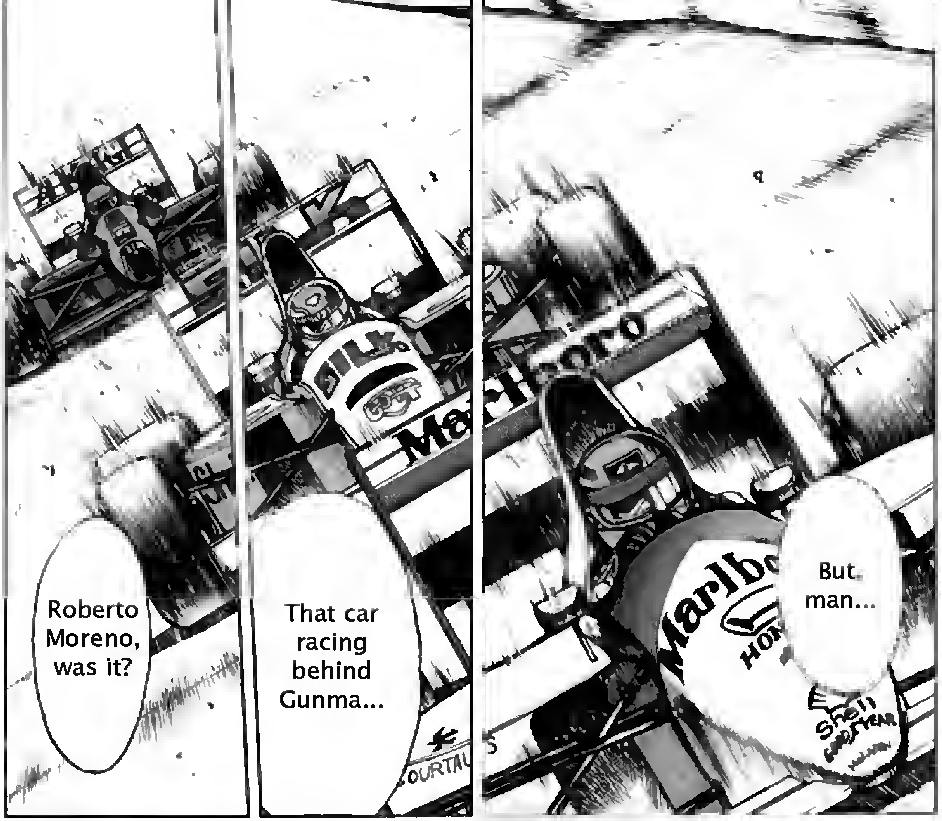

WOOOSH
GUNMA AKAGI
GULF

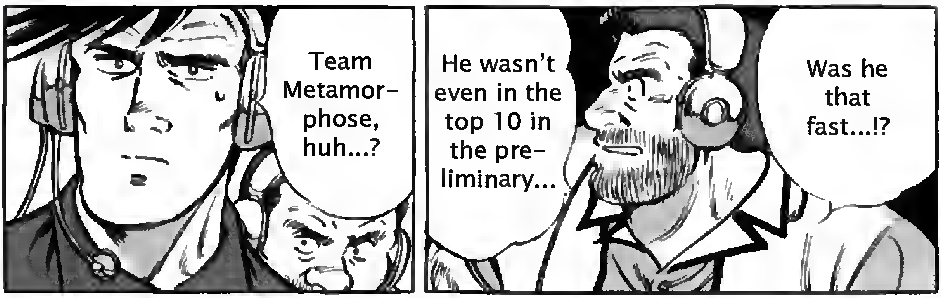

I see Senna...!
KSHHH
Marlboro


That's right, Gunma. That fella in the McLaren Honda was F1 series champion last year and the year before that!
VWOOSH
I see Ayrton Senna!
The fastest man in the world!

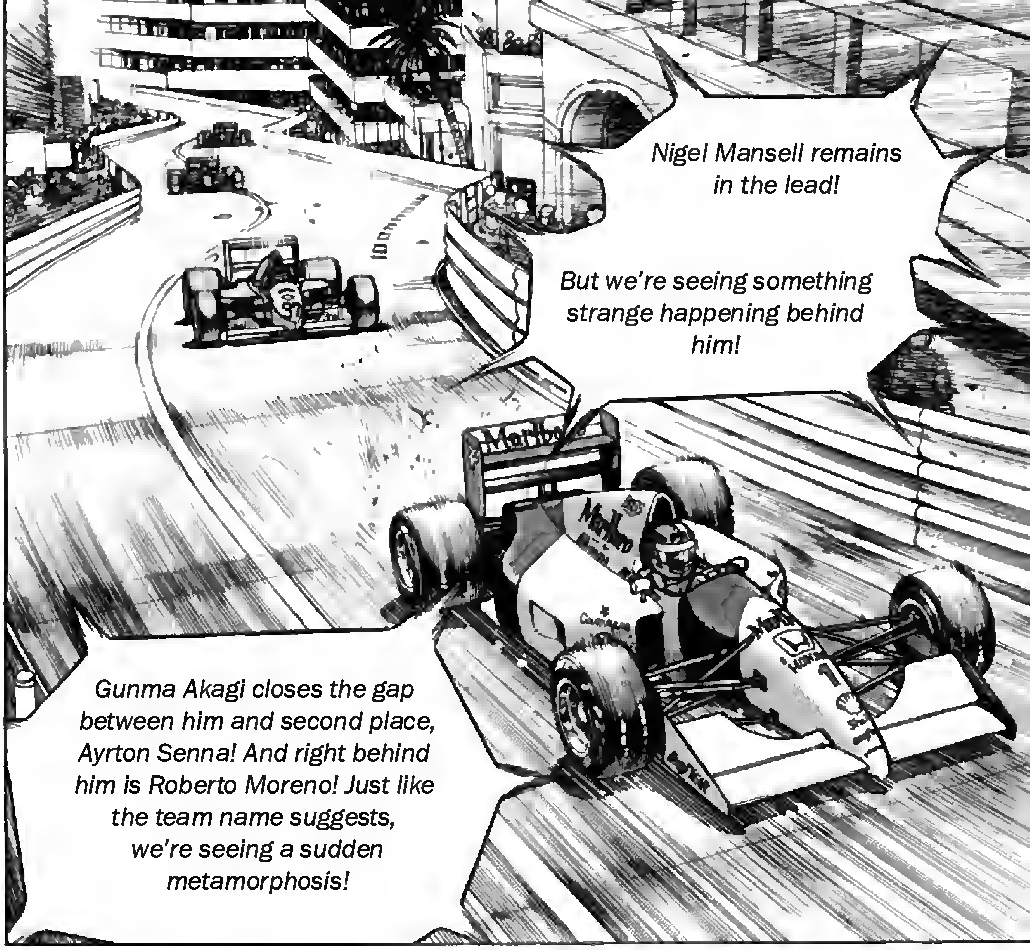

ZOOOOOOM
He's been struggling in second place this season because of Williams Renault's astounding performance, but he is without a doubt one of the kings of the F1 world!
KSHH
KSHHH
OOM
Here comes the last corner!

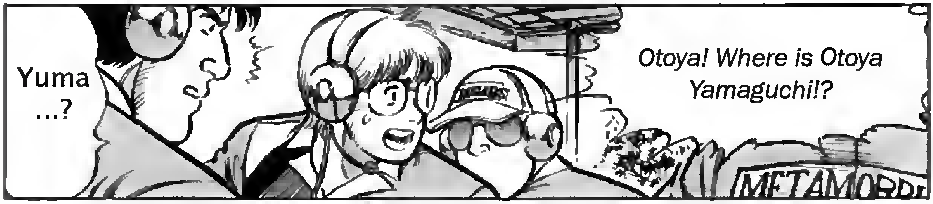
WOOSH
There he goes!
Right in front of you, Gunma!
That man, Senna, is running right in front of you!
BRAAAAAHHH
ZOOOOOM
...reaching for the freakin' rainbow!
No... Not today. Today, Gunma's...
He's gotta stay calm and...
Mr. Kuroi! We shouldn't get him all riled up!

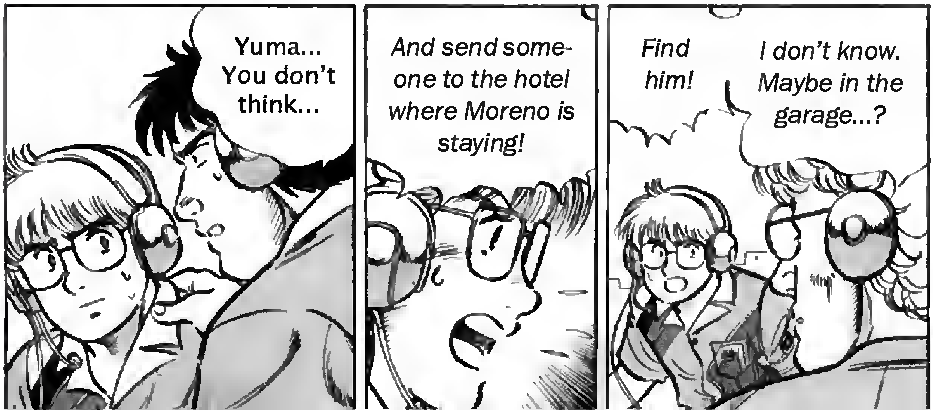

Roberto Moreno, was it?
That car racing behind Gunma...
But, man...

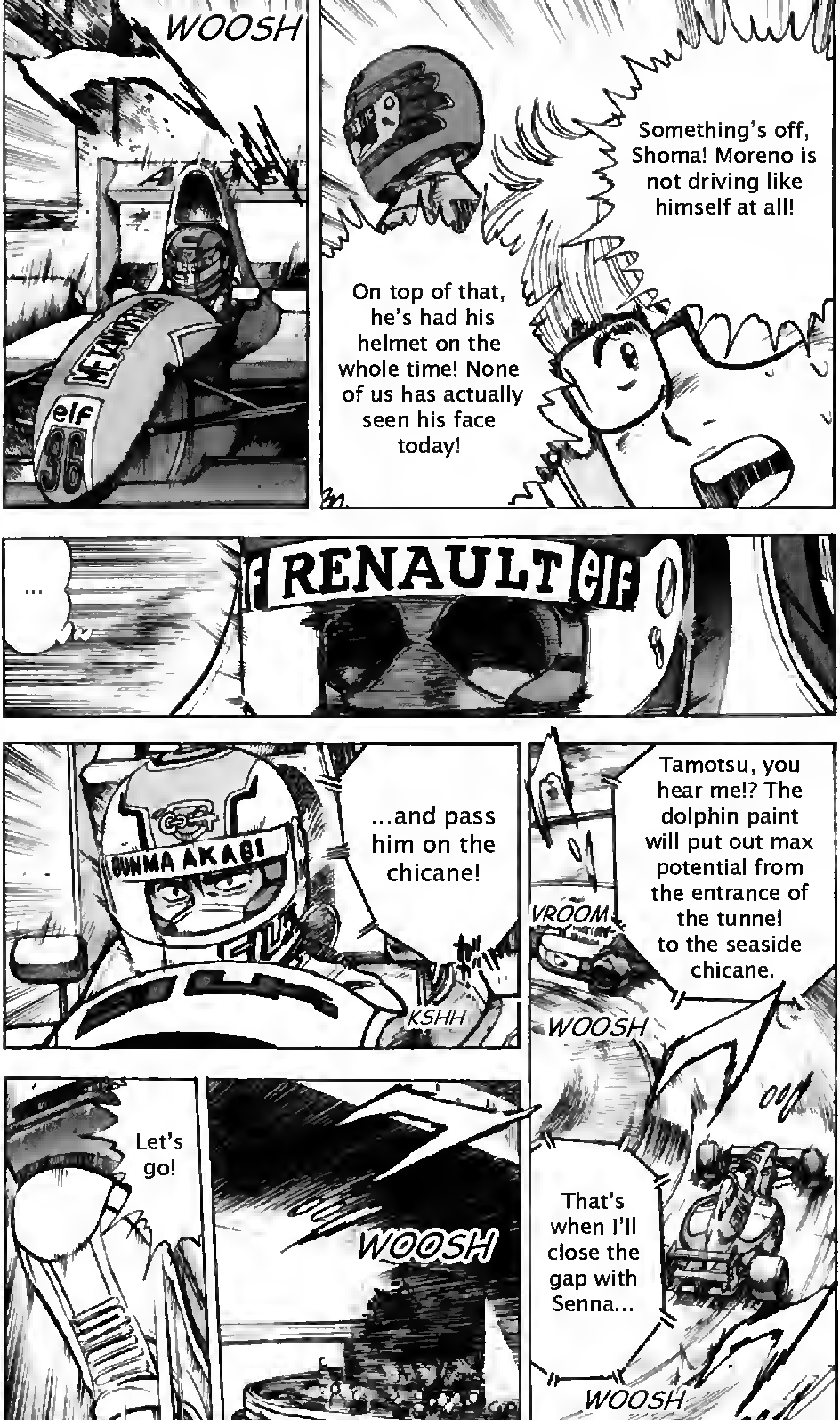

Team Metamorphose, huh...?
He wasn't even in the top 10 in the preliminary...
Was he that fast...!?

He's never raced like this before...
Something's not right...
No response, huh...? He must be really focused.
Moreno! Answer me!


Nigel Mansell remains in the lead!
But we're seeing something strange happening behind him!
Gunma Akagi closes the gap between him and second place, Ayrton Senna! And right behind him is Roberto Moreno! Just like the team name suggests, we're seeing a sudden metamorphosis!


Yuma ...?
Otoya! Where is Otoya Yamaguchi!?

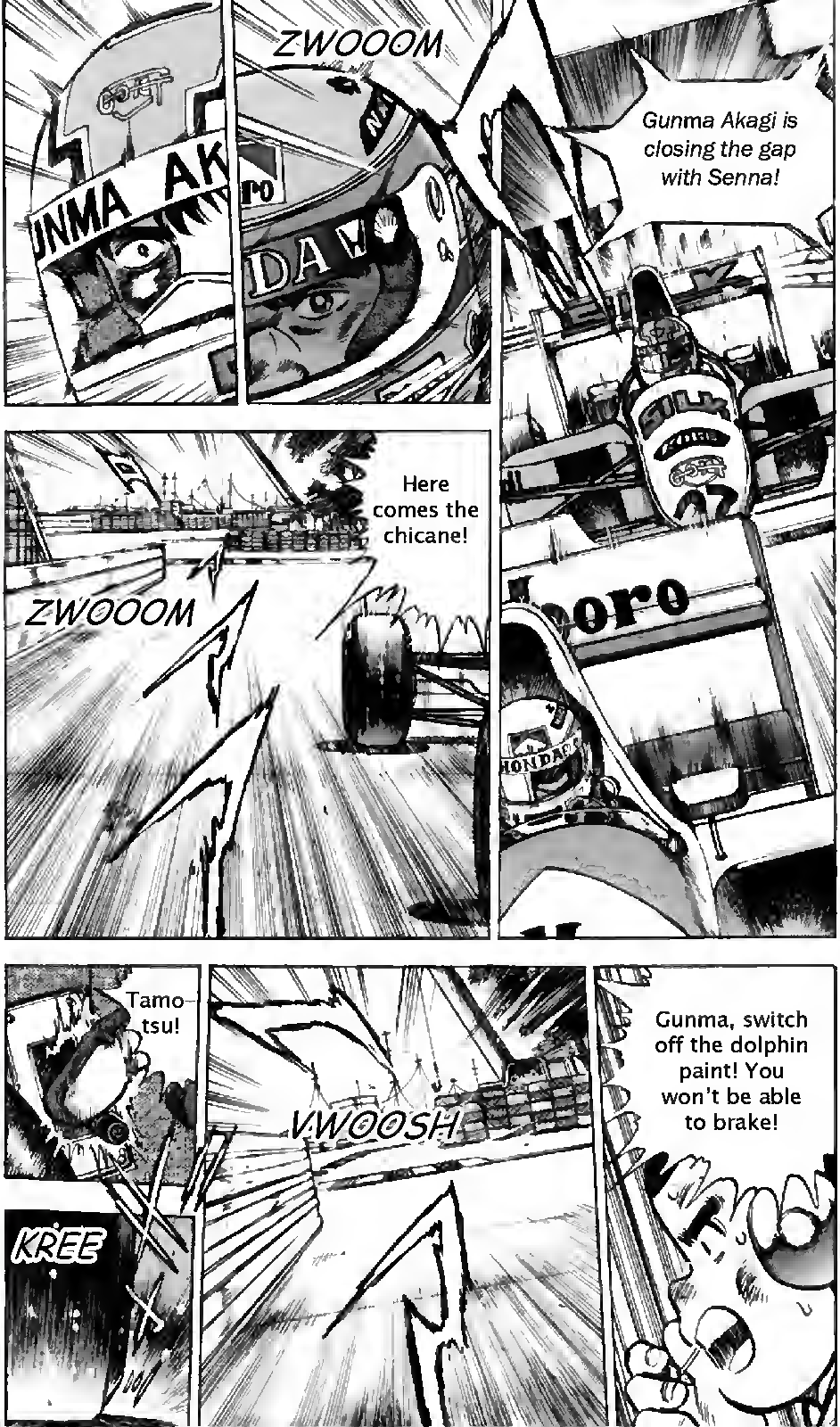

Yuma... You don't think...
And send someone to the hotel where Moreno is staying!
Find him!
I don't know. Maybe in the garage...?

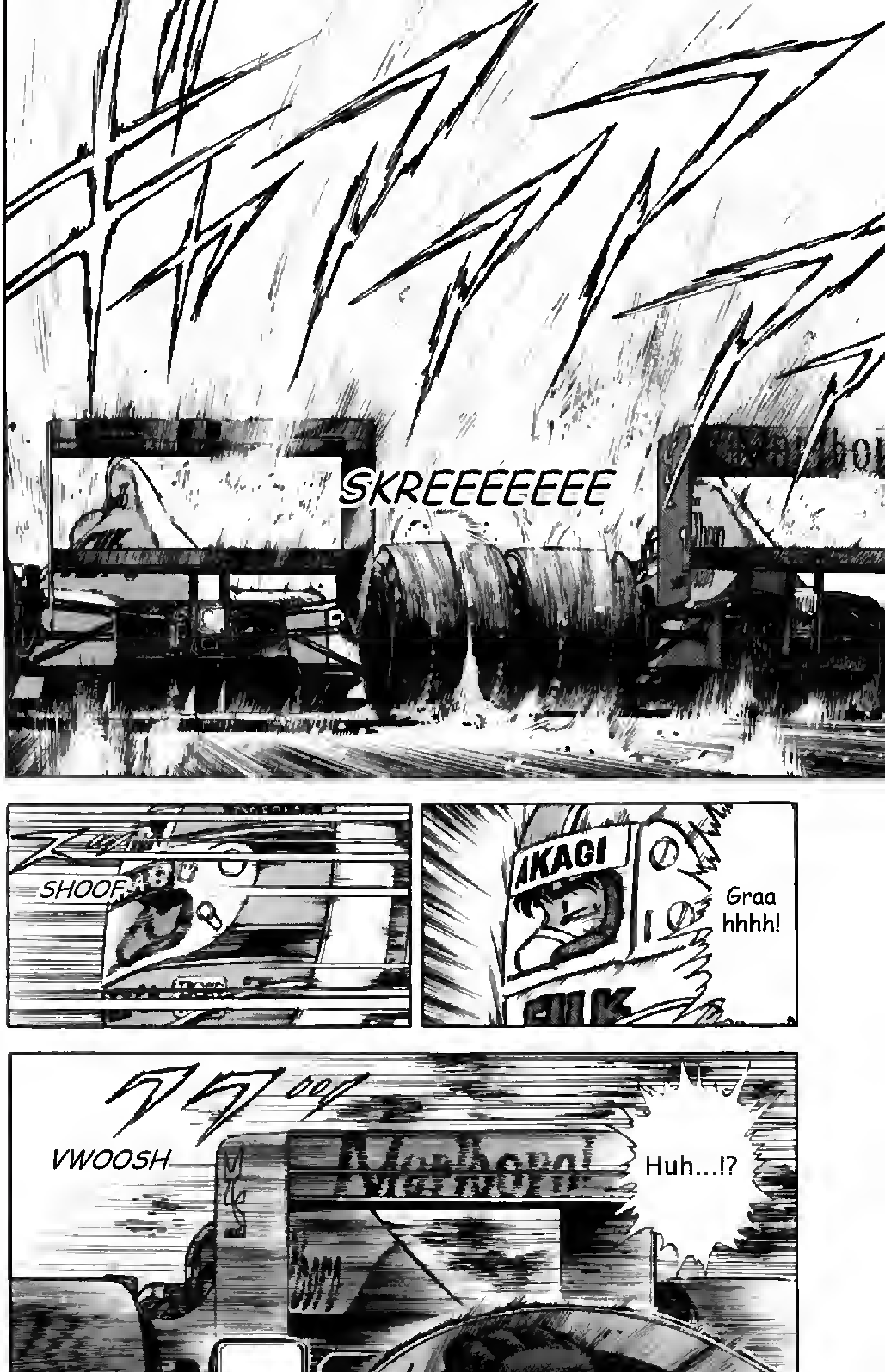

WOOSH
elf
36
Something's off, Shoma! Moreno is not driving like himself at all!
On top of that, he's had his helmet on the whole time! None of us has actually seen his face today!
...
RENAULT elf
GUNMA AKAGI
...and pass him on the chicane!
KSHH
Tamotsu, you hear me!? The dolphin paint will put out max potential from the entrance of the tunnel to the seaside chicane.
VROOM
WOOSH
That's when I'll close the gap with Senna...
WOOSH
Let's go!
WOOSH

ZOOOOM
Marlboro

FWOOSH

ZOOOOOM

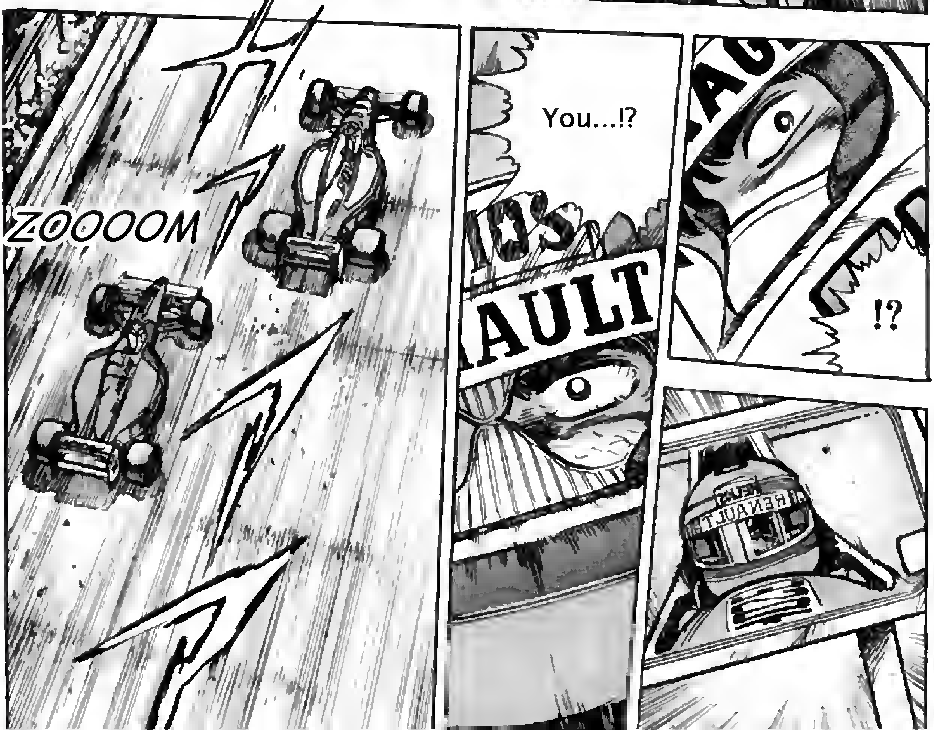

ZWOOOM
Gunma Akagi is closing the gap with Senna!
Here comes the chicane!
ZWOOOM
Tamo-tsu!
VWOOSH
KREE
Gunma, switch off the dolphin paint! You won't be able to brake!

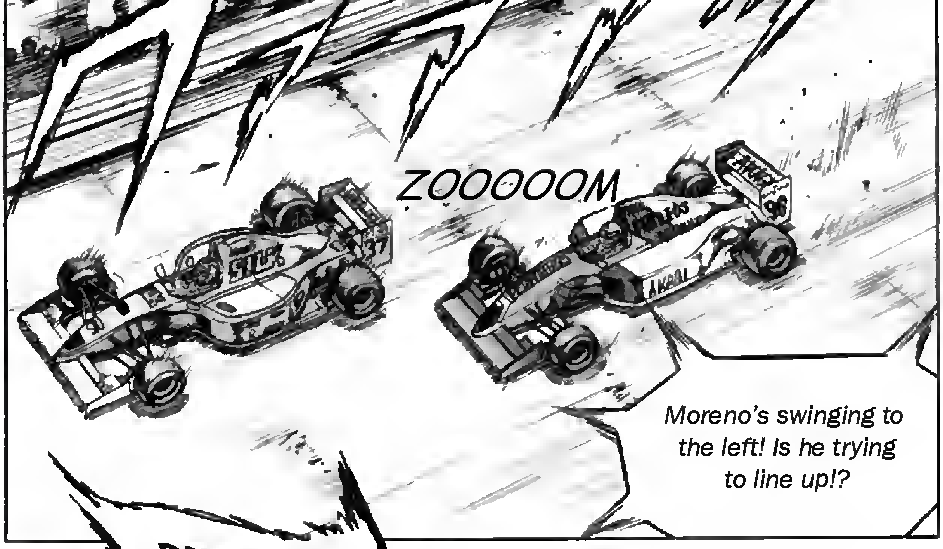

SKREEEEEEEE
SHOOFA
AKAGI
Graa hhhh!
VWOOSH
Huh...!?

FOOOM
WOOSH
Marlboro
Senna once again proves to be several steps above the rest when it comes to diving in and out of chicanes!
He couldn't make the pass!
VRROOOM
Hot damn...
AKAGI
Ayrton Senna shows some incredible cornering and charged straight out of the chicane!
NMA AKAGI
He really is the world's best...
SILK
Marlboro
HONDA
1

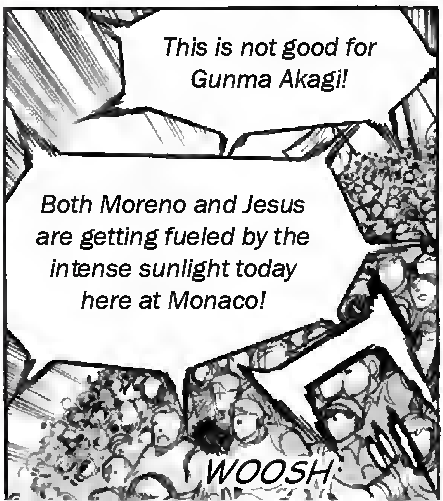
SHOOM
37

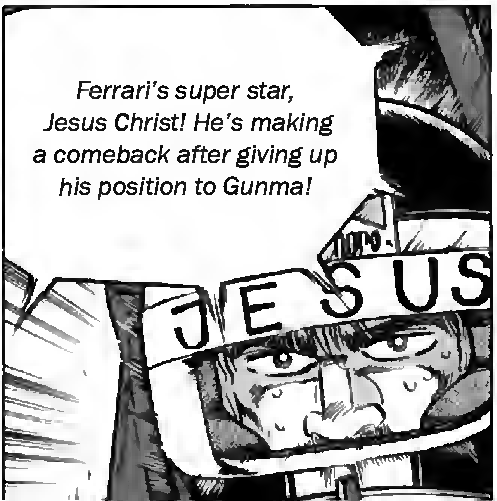
Whoa! Just when Senna left Gunma Akagi in the dust, Moreno seized the chance to catch up!
AKAGI


ZOOOOM
You...!?
AULT
!?

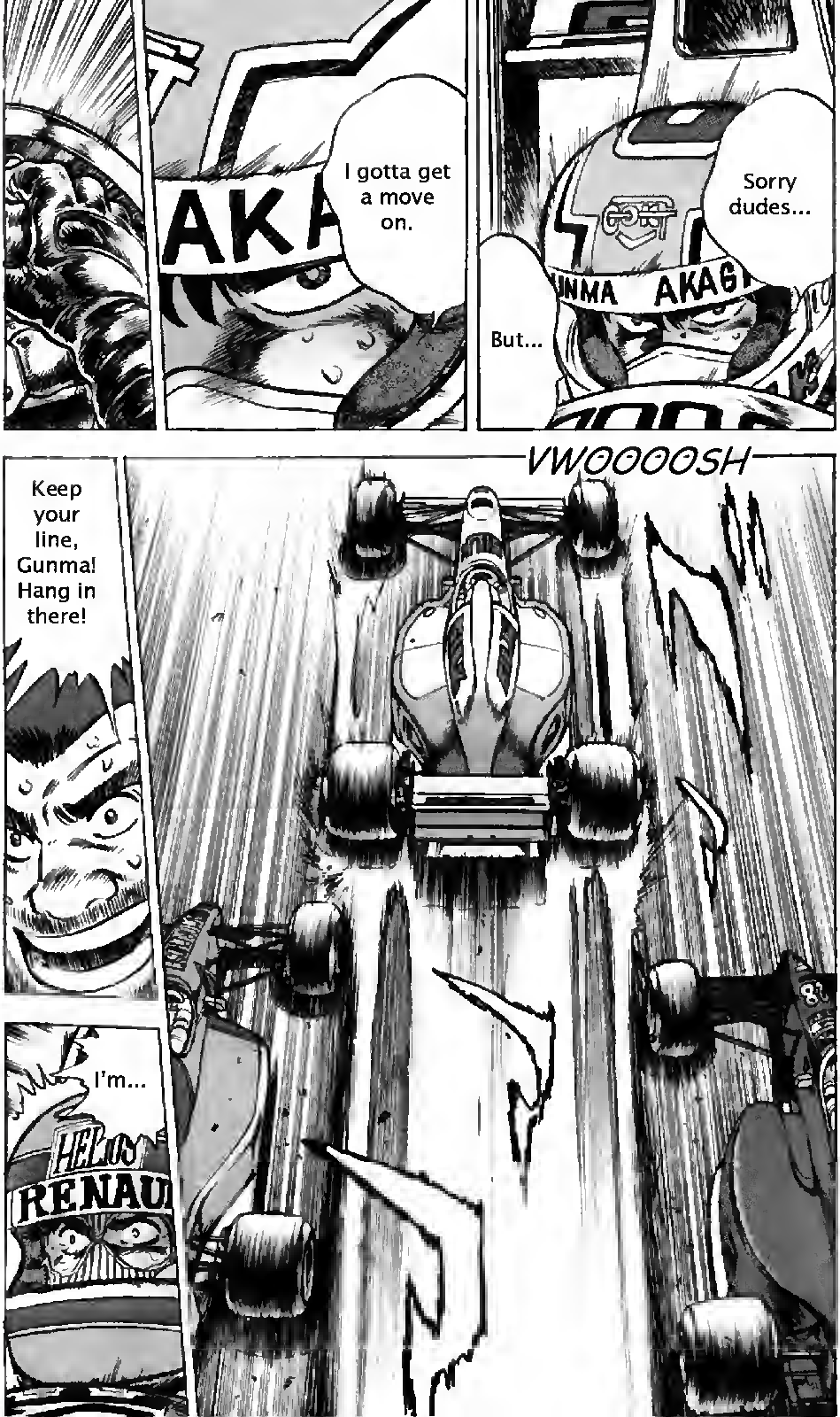

ZOOOOOM
37
AKAGI
Moreno's swinging to the left! Is he trying to line up!?

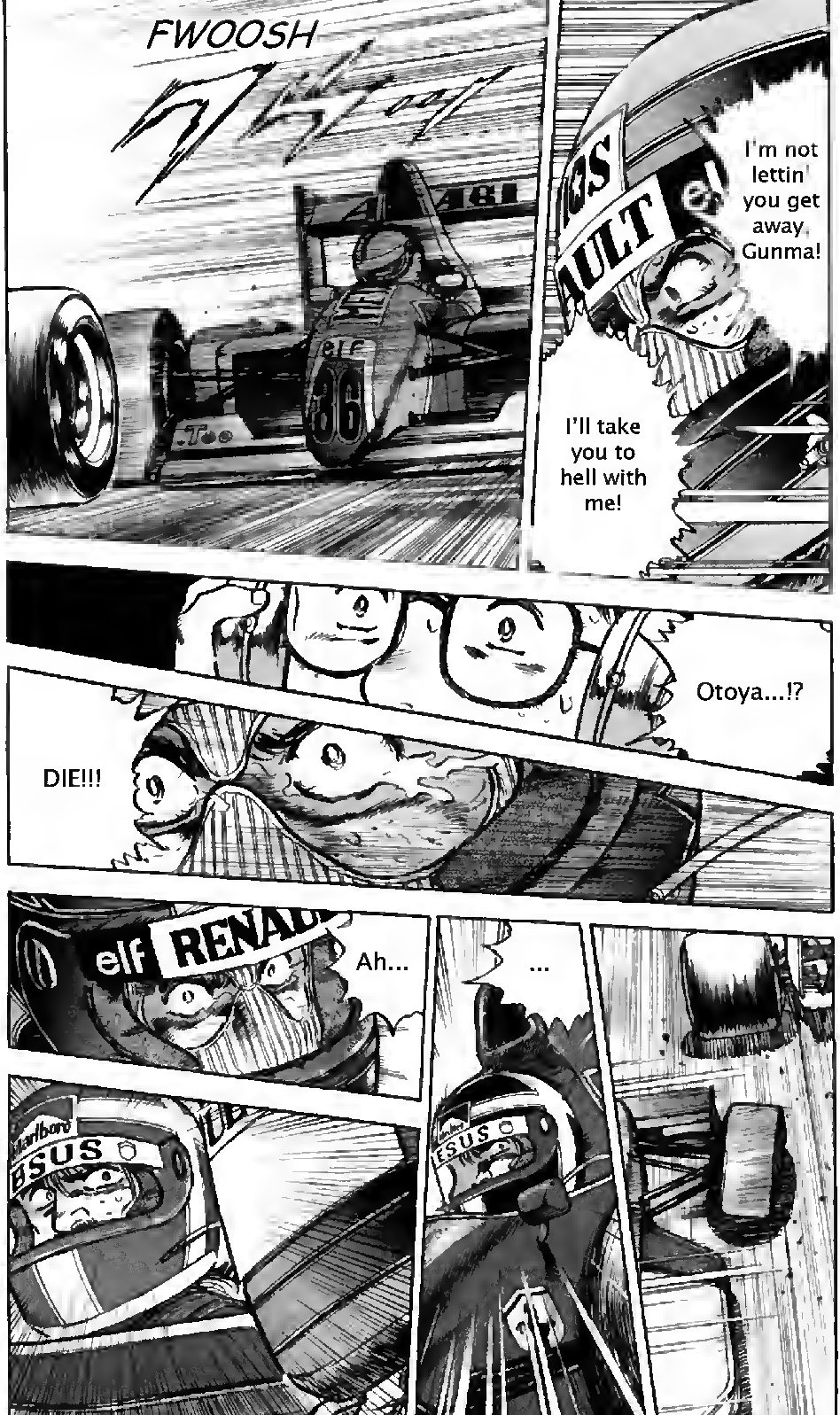
WOOOSH
28
GUNMA AKAGI
Wait! There's one more car coming in from behind on Gunma's right!


This is not good for Gunma Akagi!
Both Moreno and Jesus are getting fueled by the intense sunlight today here at Monaco!
WOOSH

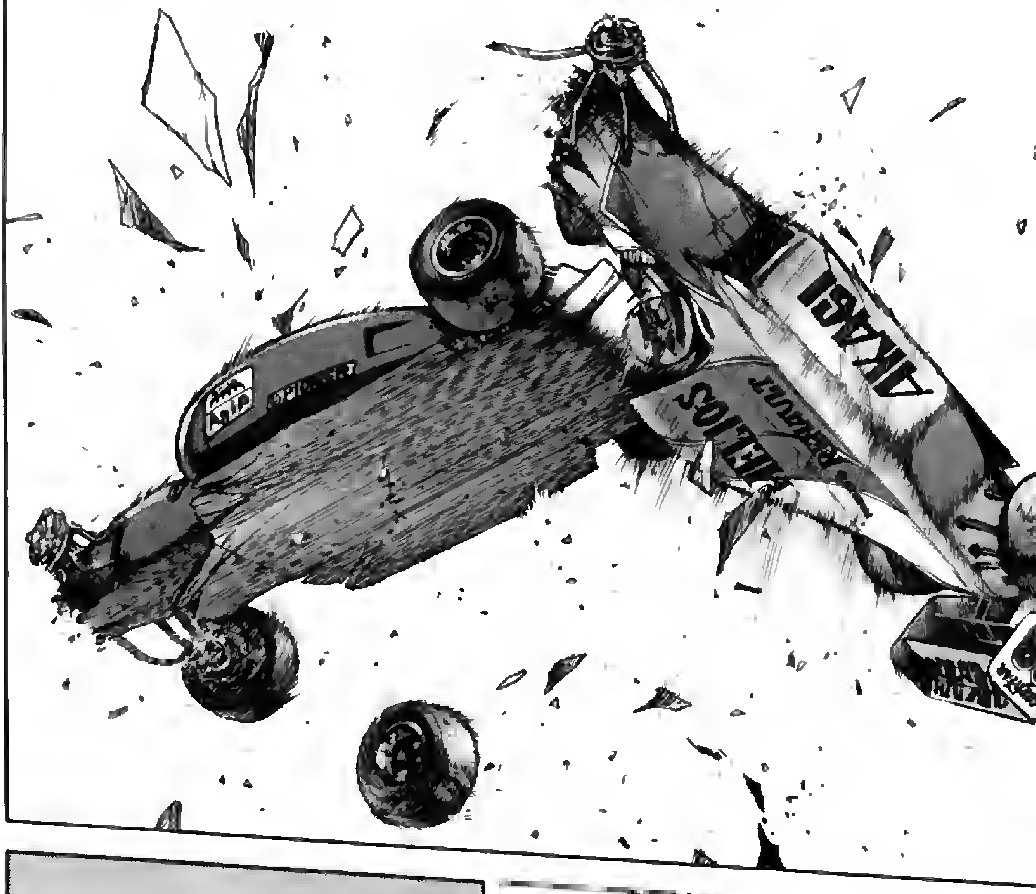

Ferrari's super star, Jesus Christ! He's making a comeback after giving up his position to Gunma!
JESUS

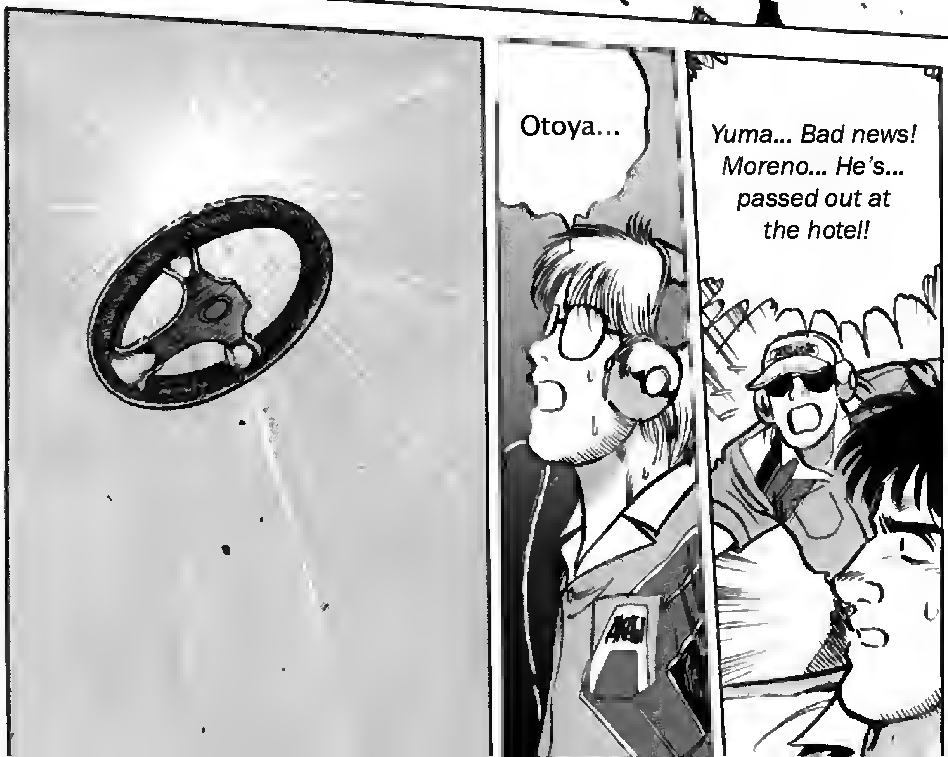
elf RENAULT
Otoya... Is that you!?
Otoya ...!?
HAKAGI
O...
SILK
VROOOOM
Marlboro
SILK
PIAA
37
HELIOS
METAMORPHOSE
elf
Marlboro
JESUS
Jesus...
GUNMA


I gotta get a move on.
Sorry dudes...
But...
VWOOOOSH
Keep your line, Gunma! Hang in there!
I'm...


FWOOSH
elf
86
I'm not lettin' you get away, Gunma!
I'll take you to hell with me!
Otoya...!?
DIE!!!
elf RENA
Ah...
...
Marlboro
ESUS

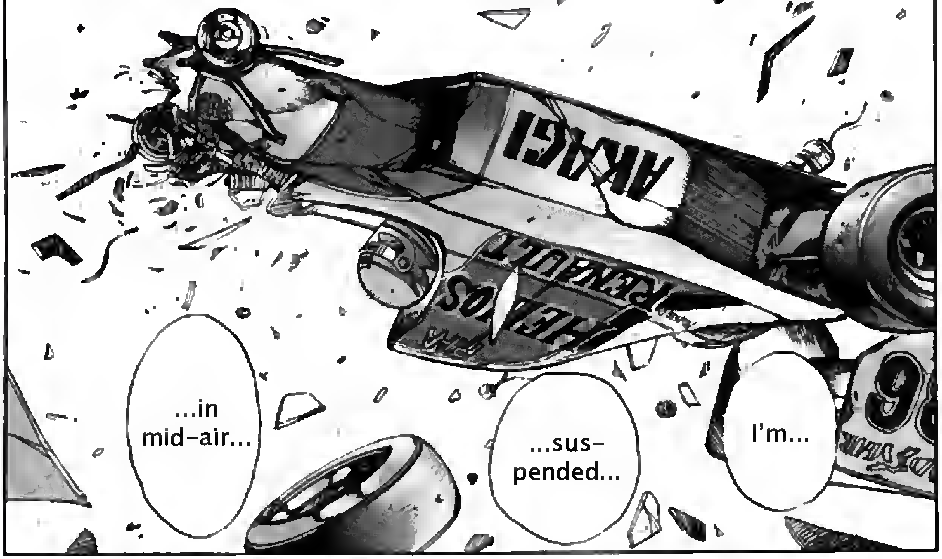
GRRSSSHHHH
28
AKAGI
MR. TADPOLE
SILK
PINK 37

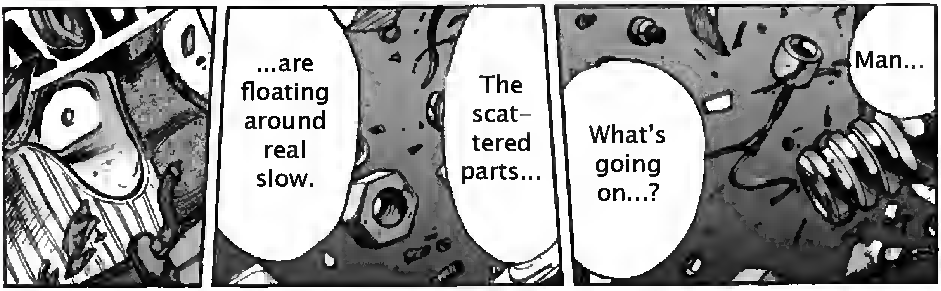

AKAGI

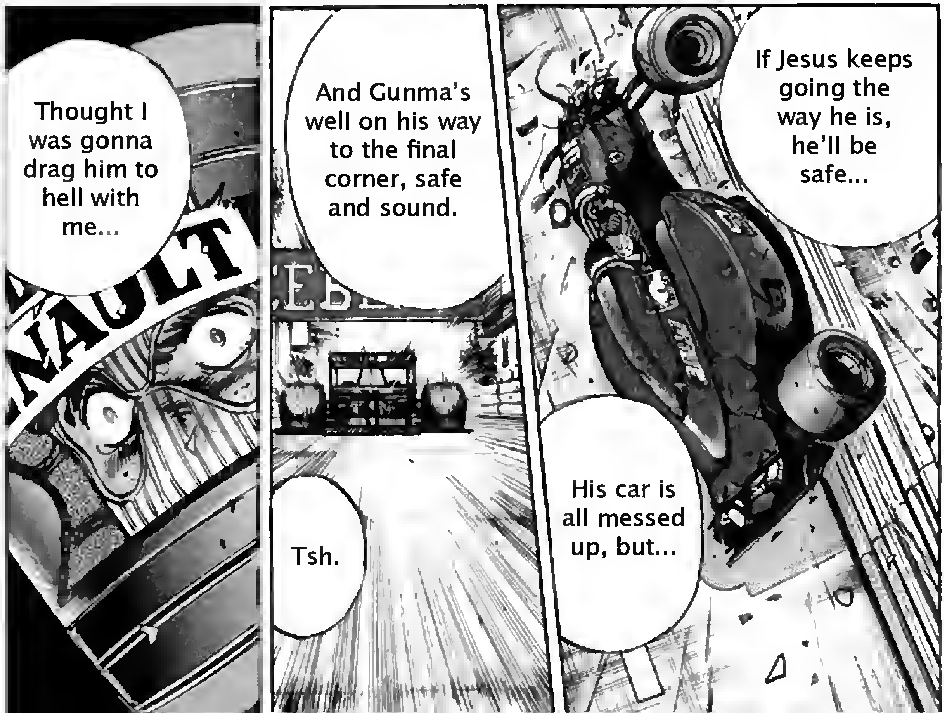

Otoya...
Yuma... Bad news! Moreno... He's... passed out at the hotel!

Chapter 7:
Focus
Otoya!
Marlboro
FIAT
PIONEER
HELL
RENAULT
POWERED BY
GOODYEAR
36
air

Ugh...
What...
What's happenin' to me...!?
Huh...?


...in mid-air...
...sus-pended...
I'm...

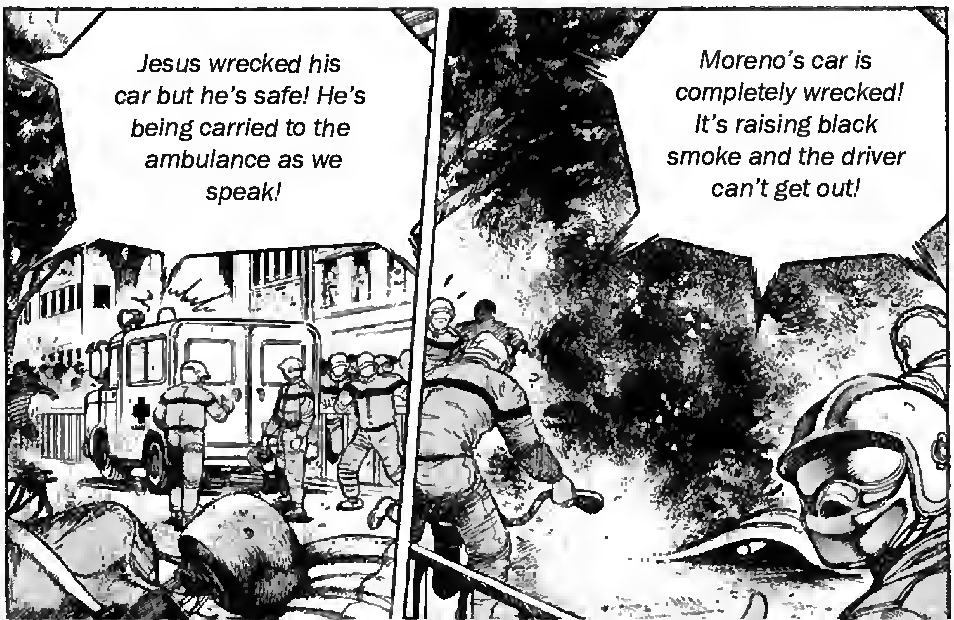

...are floating around real slow.
The scat-tered parts...
What's going on...?
Man...

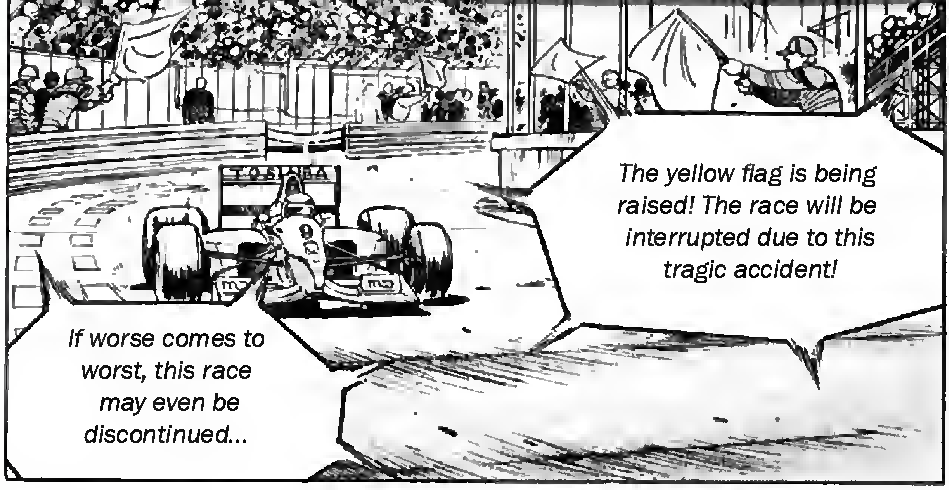

Thought I was gonna drag him to hell with me...
And Gunma's well on his way to the final corner, safe and sound.
Tsh.
His car is all messed up, but...
If Jesus keeps going the way he is, he'll be safe...

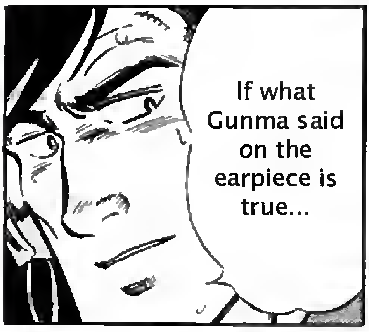
Heh... Sounds like Yuma already found out that I locked Moreno in his hotel...
Man... I'm...
...a scum-bag.
I wasn't like this before...
Grand-ma...
Tell me I'm no scum-bag.
I was a good kid...
Come on, Grand-ma... I wasn t... Right?
Was I, Grand-ma...?

Please tell me...
ZGRRAASSSHH
...I ain't so bad.

Yu–ma!
There's been a terrible crash! A terrible crash at Monaco during a struggle for third between Jesus and Moreno!
WOOSH
I repeat, Jesus and Moreno have crashed!


Jesus wrecked his car but he's safe! He's being carried to the ambulance as we speak!
Moreno's car is completely wrecked! It's raising black smoke and the driver can't get out!

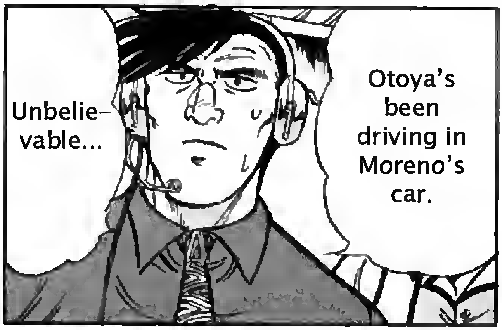

The yellow flag is being raised! The race will be interrupted due to this tragic accident!
If worse comes to worst, this race may even be discontinued...


If what Gunma said on the earpiece is true...

Yeah ...
I can't believe this...!

Not sure.

Is it over ...?

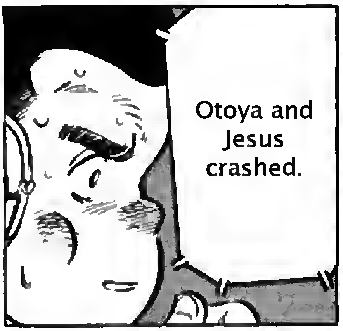

Unbelie-vable...
Otoya's been driving in Moreno's car.

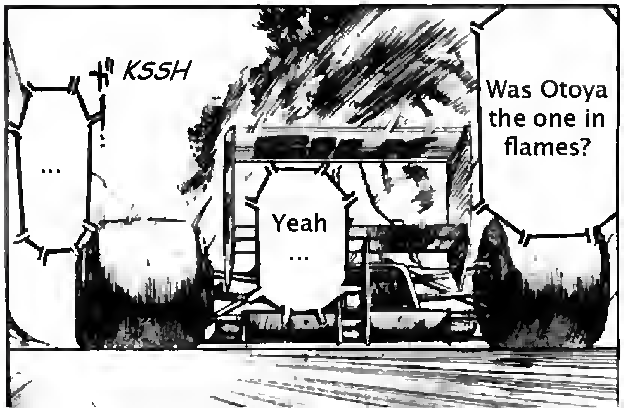
I'm going too!

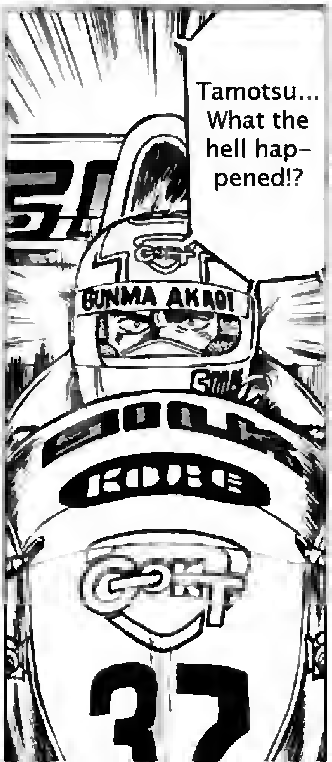
Moreno's finally been rescued, and is being carried to the hospital!

VRROOOM
Oh! They're calling off the yellow flag! The race will continue!
GITANES
BLONDES
Canon

Is that right...

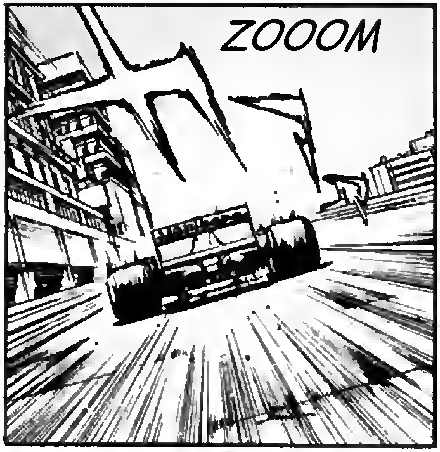

Otoya and Jesus crashed.

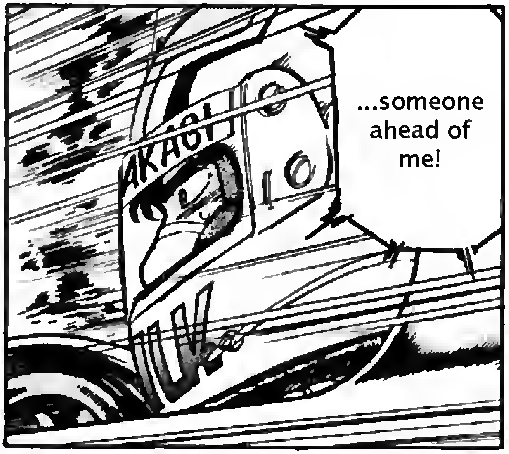

KSSH
...
Yeah ...
Was Otoya the one in flames?


Tamotsu... What the hell happened!?
GUNMA AKAGI
37

KSSHH
BEEP
GUNMA AKAGI
For now, you just gotta focus on the race...
KSHHH
Gunma! Focus on the race! Don't be thinkin' about nothin' else!

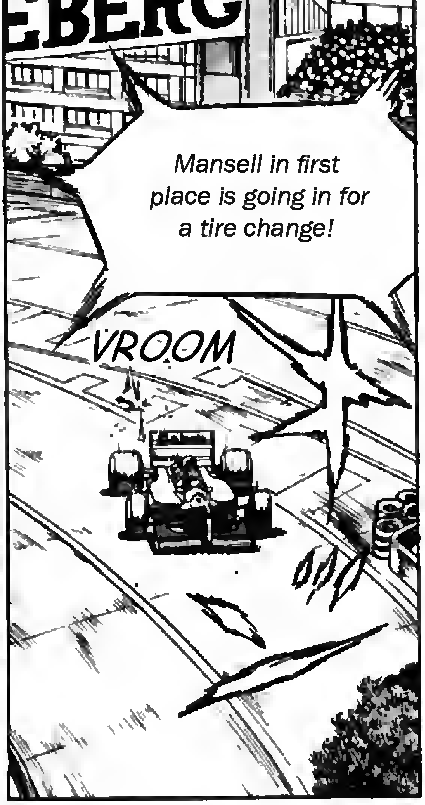
The- re's still...
I know what I gotta do.
BEEP
Yeah... I got it.


ZOOOM

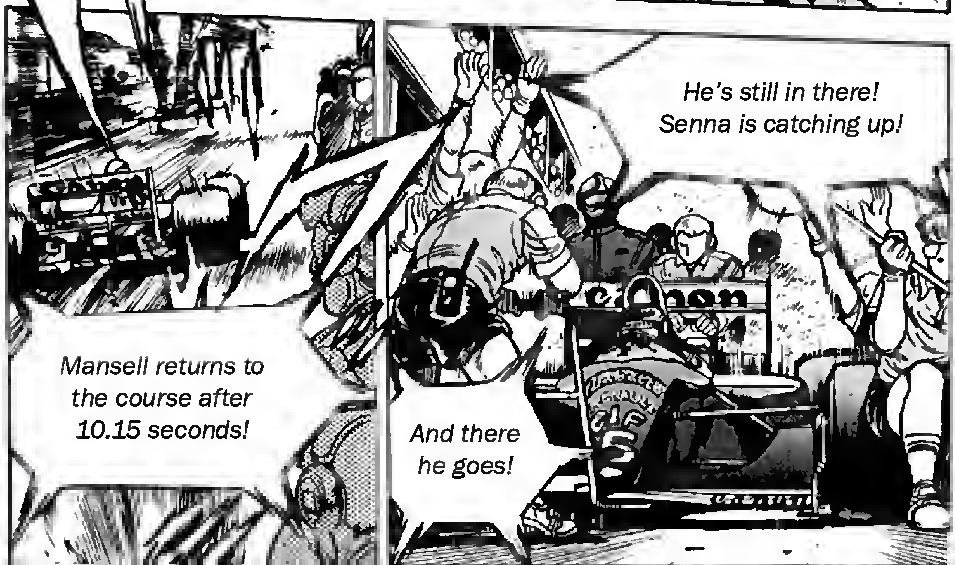

AKAGI
...someone ahead of me!

60 laps have passed, folks! Some of the racers are getting their tires changed!

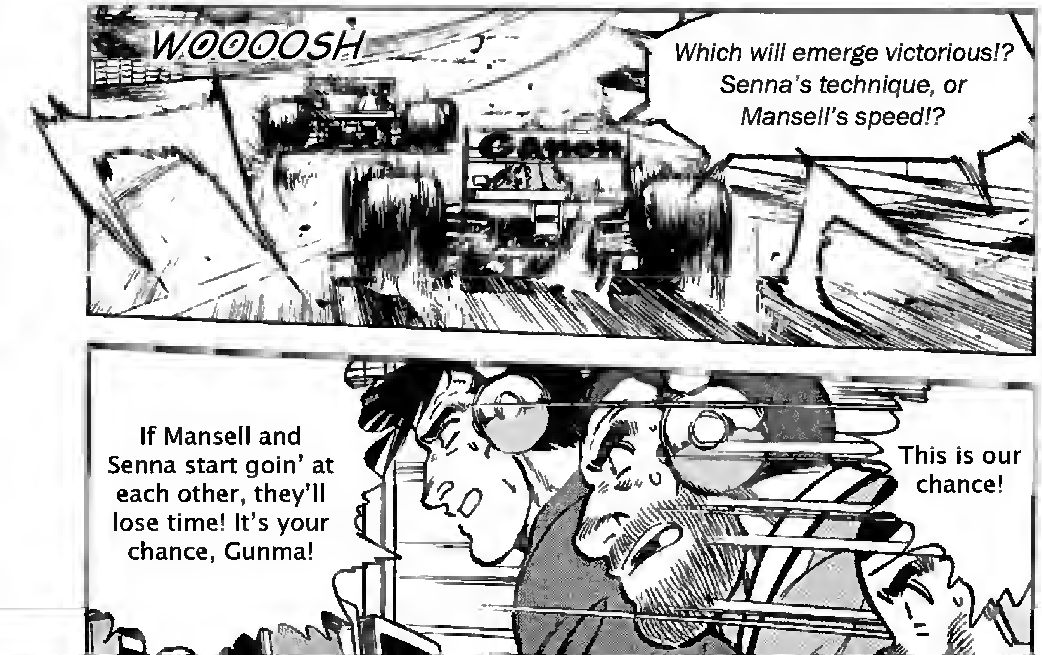
VRRRR
With a 12 second lead over Senna in second, he's using this opportunity to change his tires quickly!


EBERG
Mansell in first place is going in for a tire change!
VROOM

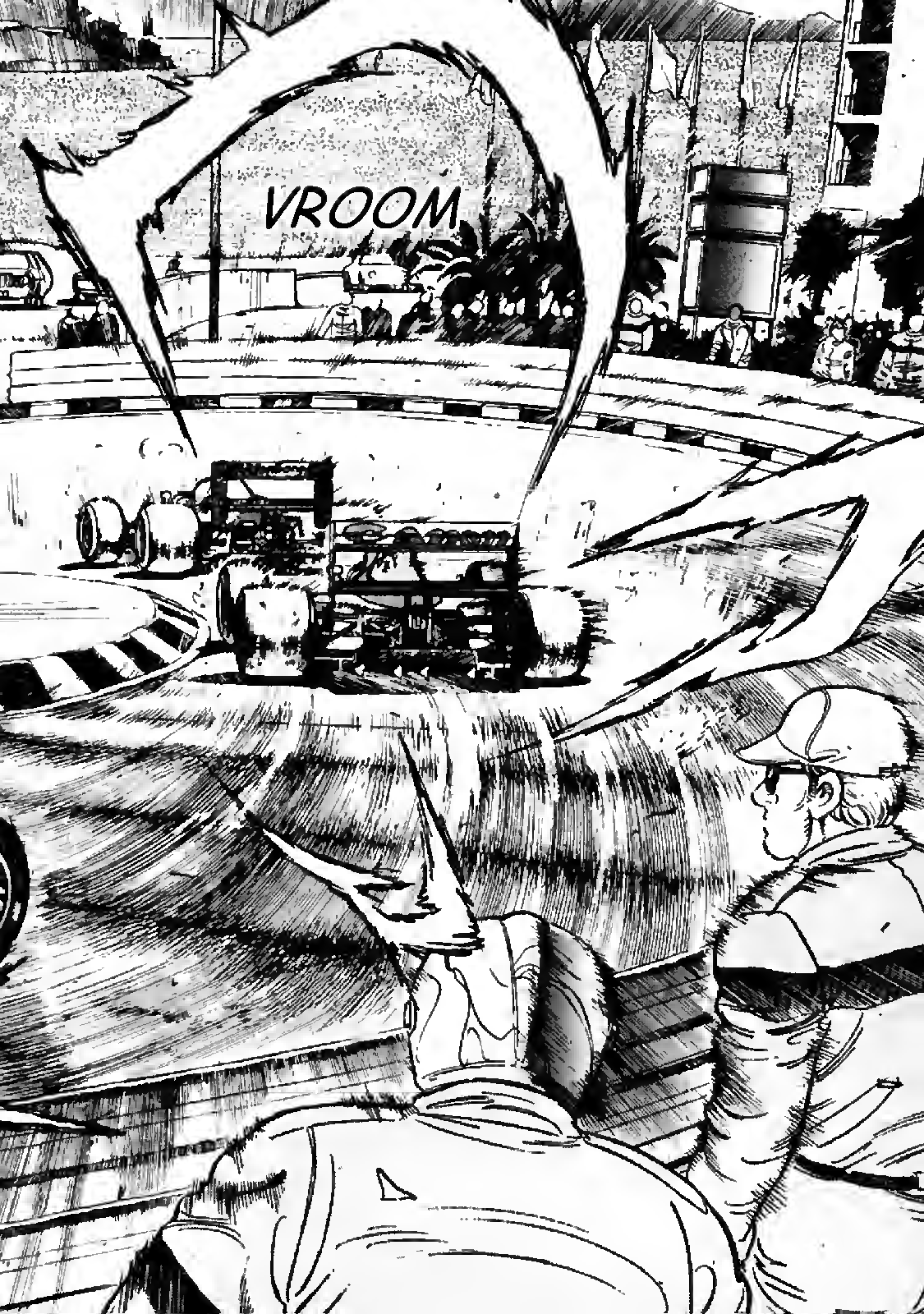
VROOOOM
RENAULT elf
He's in the Williams' pit... Counting... 5, 6, 7, 8...

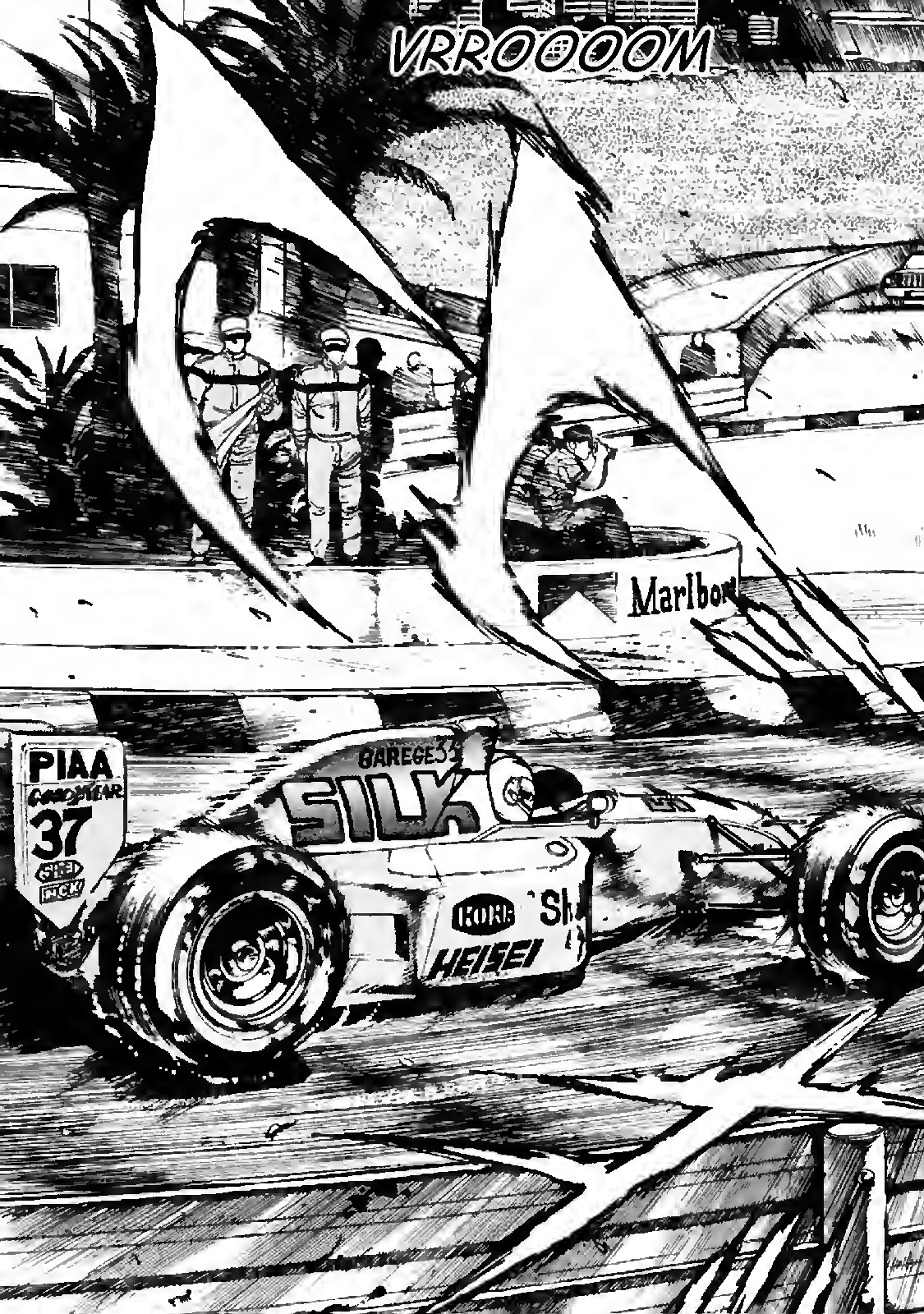

Mansell returns to the course after 10.15 seconds!
He's still in there! Senna is catching up!
And there he goes!

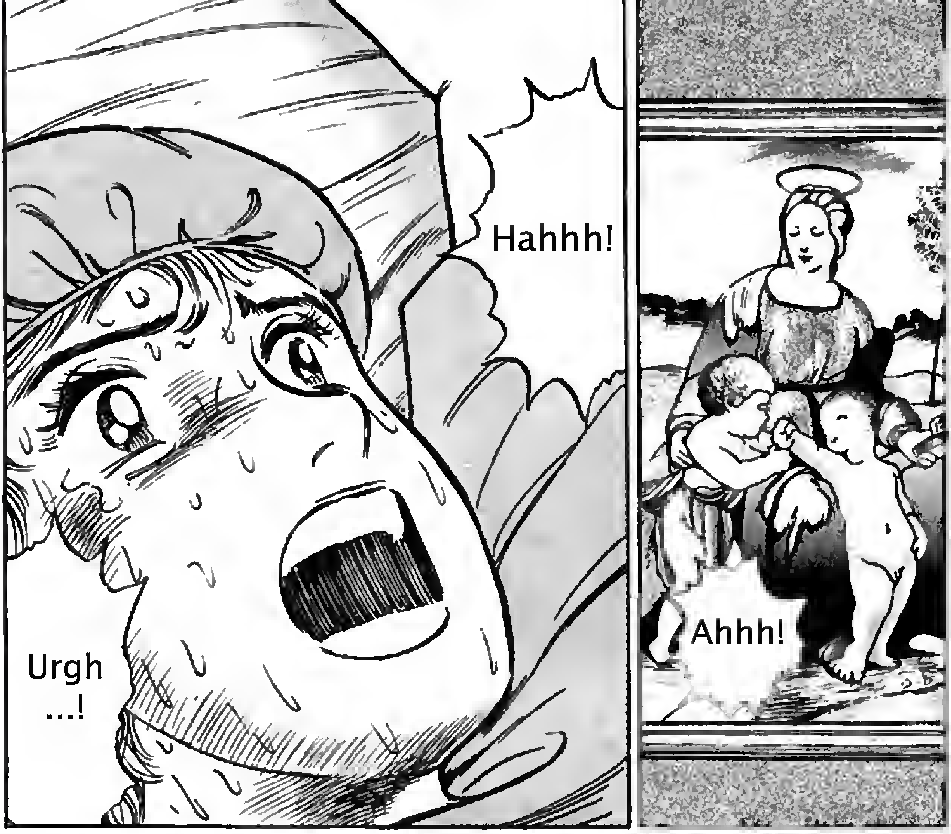
Senna finally takes the lead! Will he maintain his position!?
After Nigel Mansell lost time in the pit for a tire change, Senna stole the lead!
NAULT
Marlboro
HONDA
VRR
Canon
Marlboro
This is not good for Mansell! Nonetheless, Williams race cars are doing incredibly well this season!

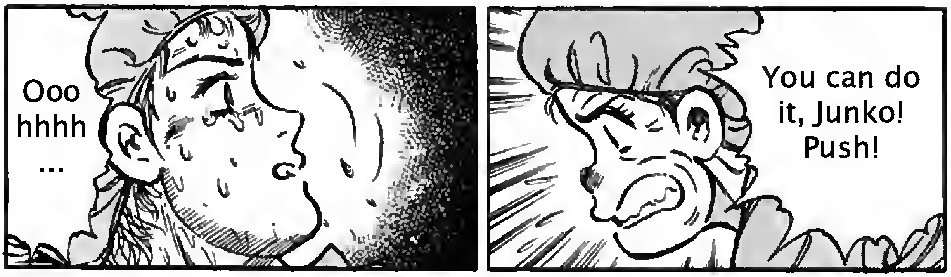

WOOOOSH
Which will emerge victorious!? Senna's technique, or Mansell's speed!?
Canon
If Mansell and Senna start goin' at each other, they'll lose time! It's your chance, Gunma!
This is our chance!

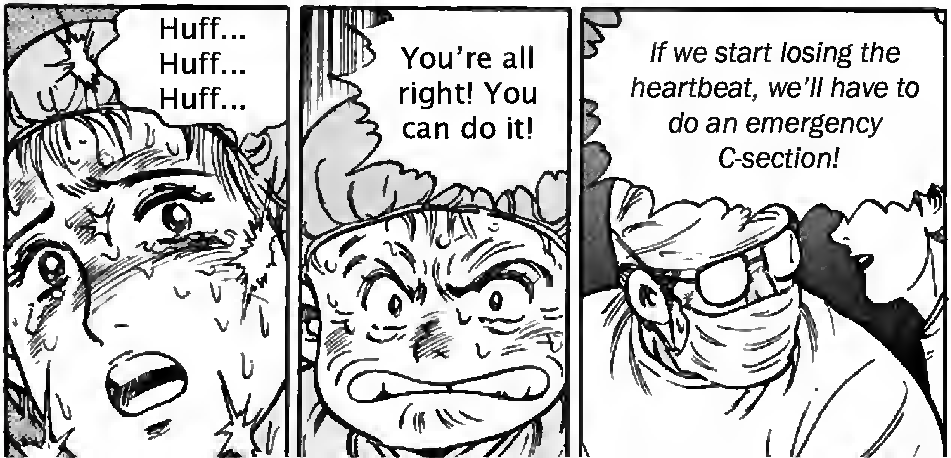
VRROOOOM
VROOM
Marlboro
PIAA
GOODYEAR
37
SILK
BAREGE33
KOBE
HEISEI


VROOM

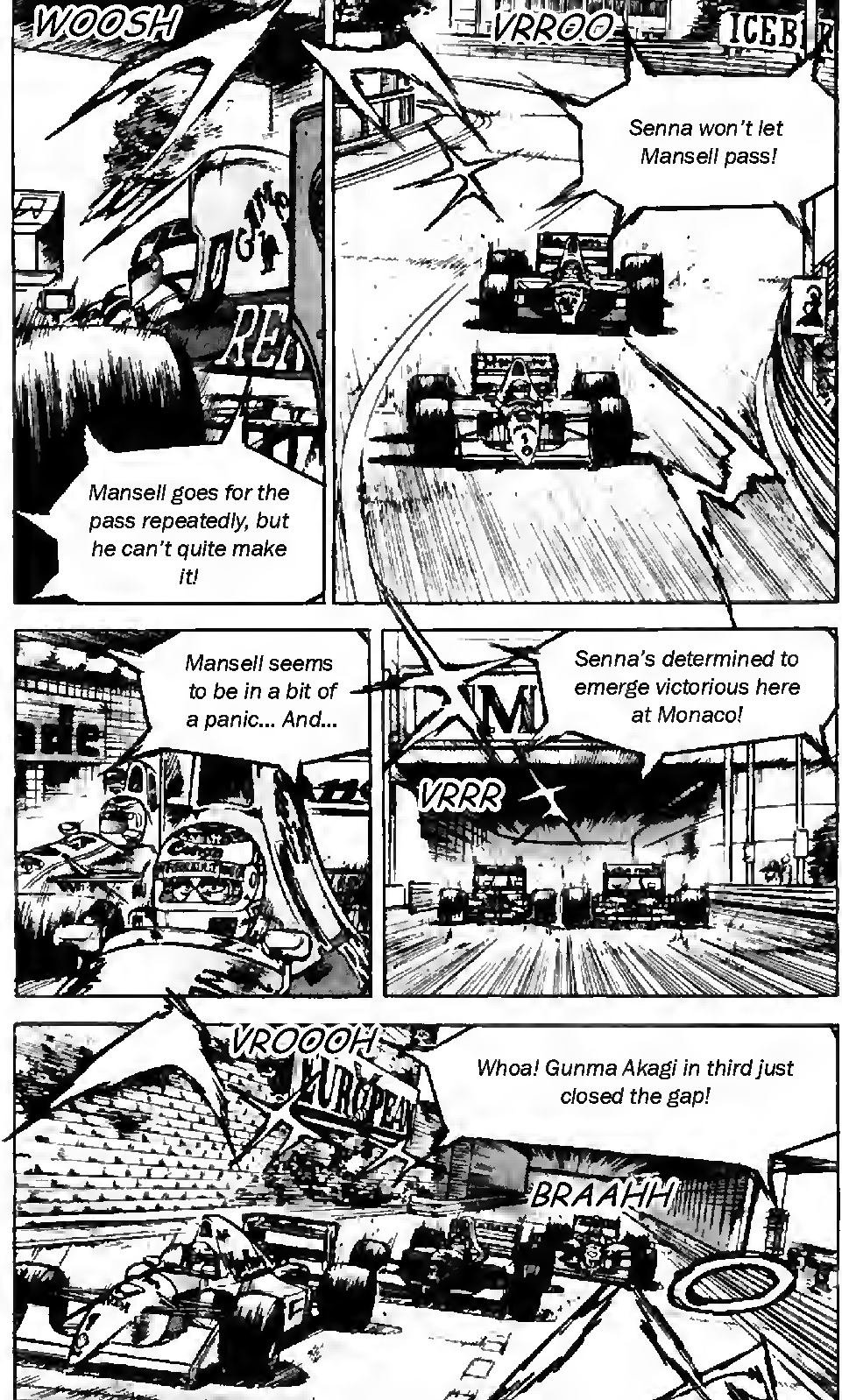

VRROOOOM
Marlbo
PIAA
37
SILK
HEISEI

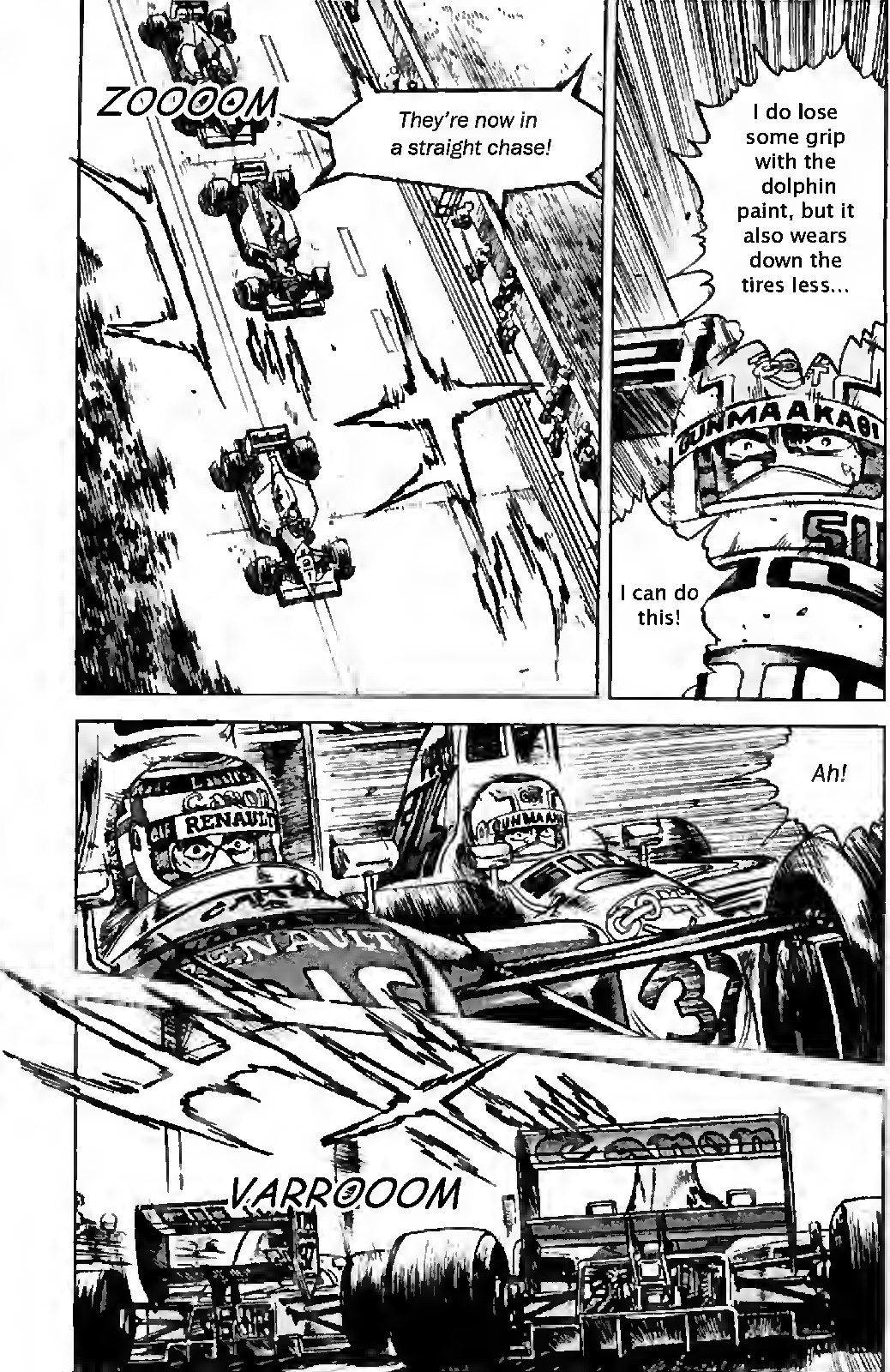

Hahhh!
Urgh ...!
Ahhh!


Ooo hhhh ...
You can do it, Junko! Push!


Huff... Huff... Huff...
You're all right! You can do it!
If we start losing the heartbeat, we'll have to do an emergency C-section!

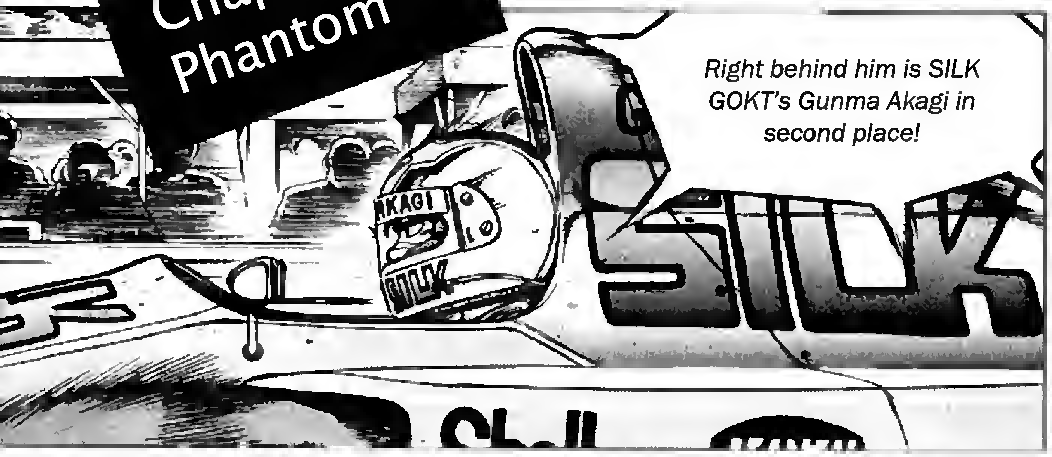
I can't... I just can't... I'm scared...
Damn it, Junko! Push!
Please... I just can't...!
I know it hurts...
It hurts... It hurts so bad... I've never...
I've never... felt such pain...
!!
...but the baby's in pain too!
...
...that's what birth is all about!
Listen to me Junko...

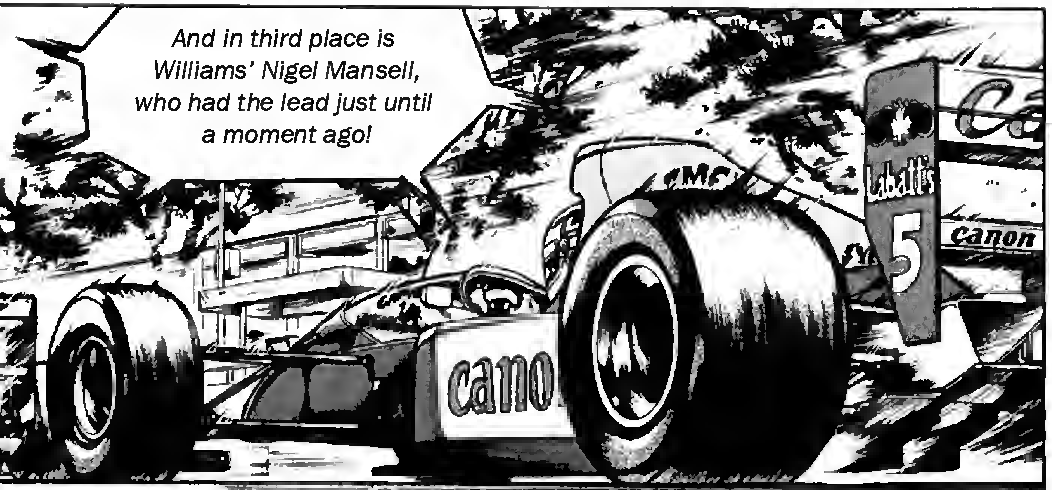

WOOSH
VRROO
ICEB
Senna won't let Mansell pass!
Mansell goes for the pass repeatedly, but he can't quite make it!
Mansell seems to be in a bit of a panic... And...
Senna's determined to emerge victorious here at Monaco!
VRRR
VROOOH
EUROPEAN
Whoa! Gunma Akagi in third just closed the gap!
BRAAHH


ZOOOOM
They're now in a straight chase!
I do lose some grip with the dolphin paint, but it also wears down the tires less...
I can do this!
Ah!
VARROOOM

One more to go!
ZOOOOOM
Mansell was so focused on trying to pass Senna that he allowed Gunma Akagi to pass him!
VRROO
One more... to go?
GUNMA AKA
Marlboro
Marlboro

Chapter 8: Phantom

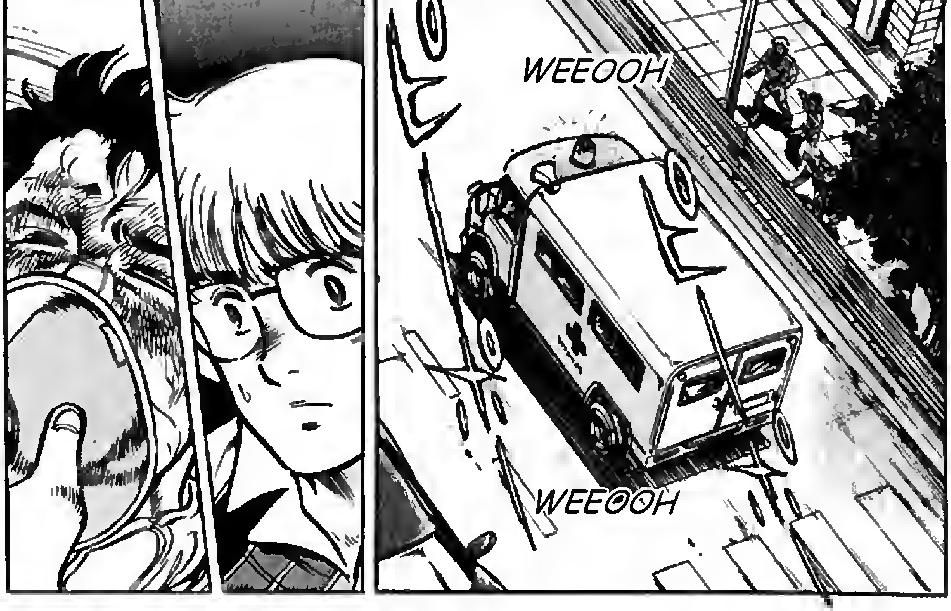




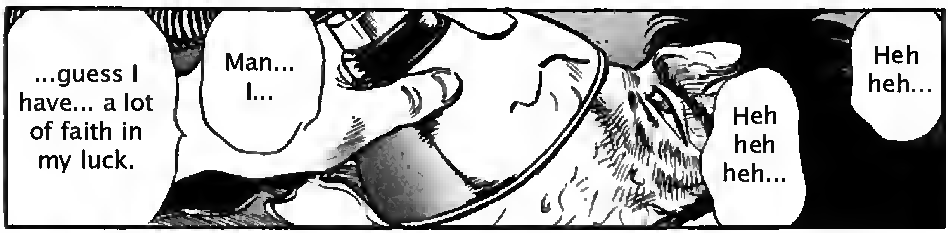
ZOOOOOM
Here in windy Monaco, under this blazing sun... The roar of spectators and the thunderous exhaust notes pierce the air!
This is what Formula One Grand Prix is all about!
Marlboro
SONY
Chapter 8:
Phantom

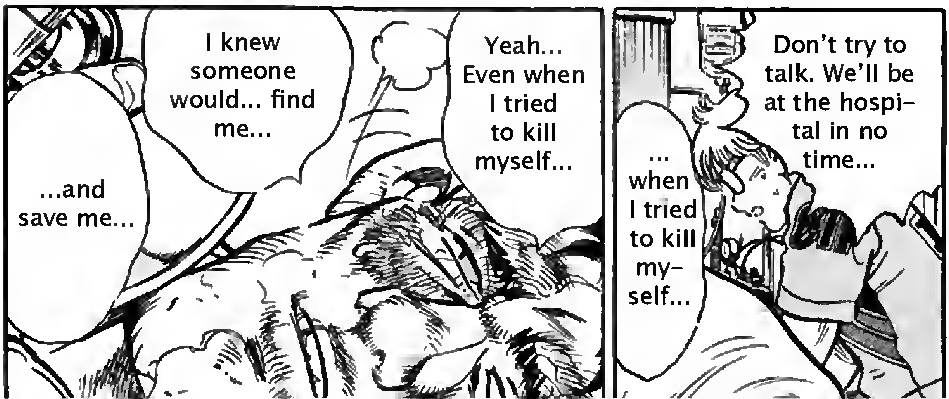
ZOOOOOM
Here in windy Monaco, under this blazing sun... The roar of spectators and the thunderous exhaust notes pierce the air!

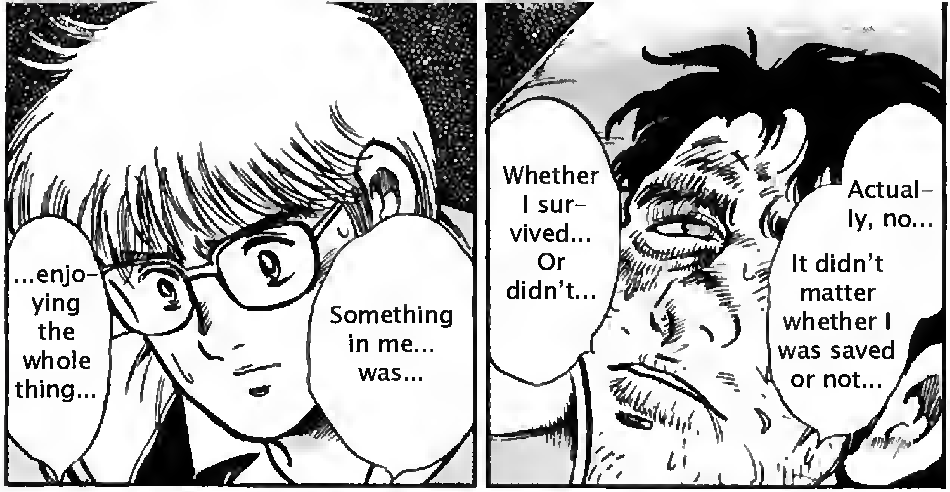
Chapter 8: Phantom


WEEOOH
WEEOOH

Otoya ...
Almost there!
Hang in there, Otoya! We're almost at the hospital!

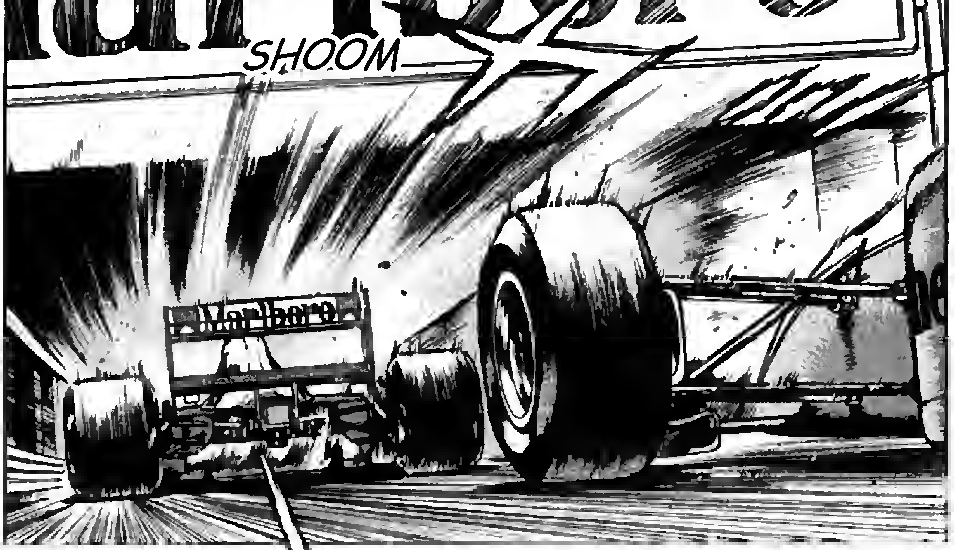

...guess I have... a lot of faith in my luck.
Man... I...
Heh heh heh...
Heh heh...

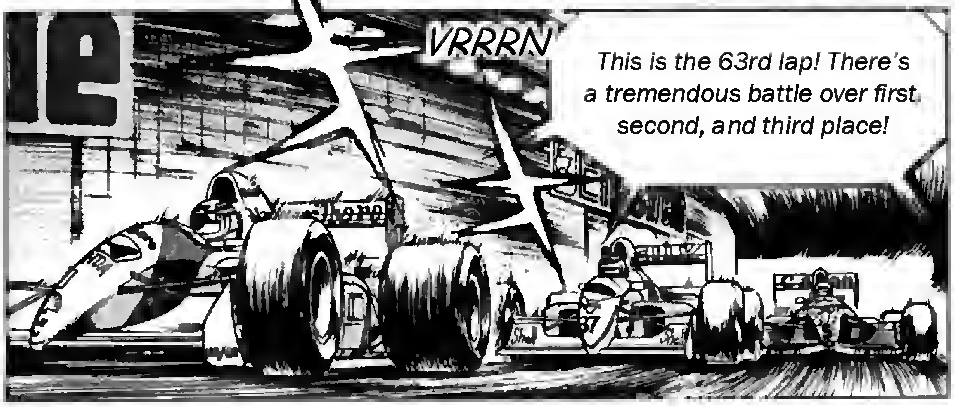

...and save me...
I knew someone would... find me...
Yeah... Even when I tried to kill myself...
... when I tried to kill myself...
Don't try to talk. We'll be at the hospital in no time...

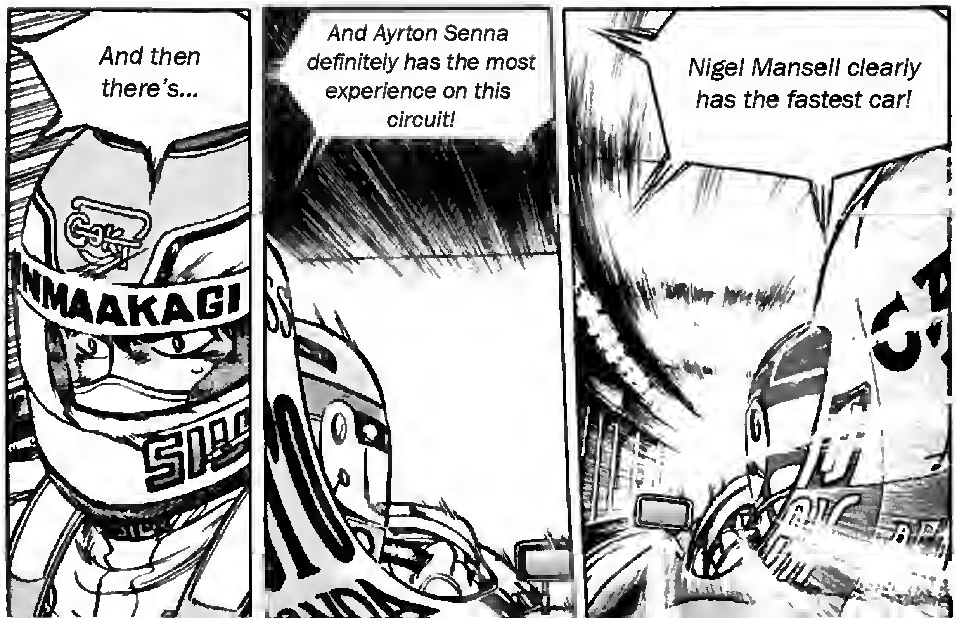

...enjoying the whole thing...
Something in me... was...
Whether I survived... Or didn't...
Actually, no...
It didn't matter whether I was saved or not...

Even a scumbag like me... Someday, I'll... Heh heh...
Heh heh heh...
Heh... But life... Life is interesting...
Man... Humans are stupid, aren't we?

Otoya...!
Someday...
I'll...
...


SHOOM


VRRRN
This is the 63rd lap! There's a tremendous battle over first, second, and third place!


And then there's...
And Ayrton Senna definitely has the most experience on this circuit!
Nigel Mansell clearly has the fastest car!

Gunma goes for the pass! But Senna does not give in!
VWOOSH
WOOSH
...Gunma Akagi in his mysterious race car, demonstrating an outstanding performance!
37
Using this opportunity, Nigel goes for the...
!!
WHOOM

ZOOOOM
No! The positions remain the same!
What a gripping race we're seeing here today, folks!
W–Whoa...
Well yeah, of course! He's sandwiched in between the best racers in the world!
Gunma is really on fire today...

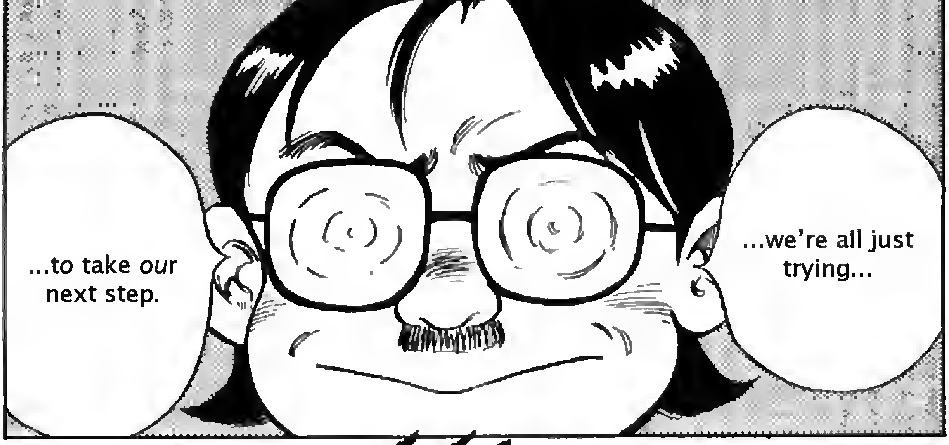
...I thought men held an intrinsic hatred towards the world and open space.
Up until this day...
No... I mean... This has been the subject of my many years of research...
Why do men try to conquer the world...?
We fall from the omnipotent state of being an unborn fetus to a completely helpless child...
In other words, being born is a fall from grace... Meaning... To be expelled from paradise...
The desire to expand in every way possible is directly linked to a desire to return to the mother's womb.
To be born and to recognize the existence of the world means that at the same time, you discover your own powerlessness.
Who knows? I may be wrong.
That's the conclusion I came to.
But ...

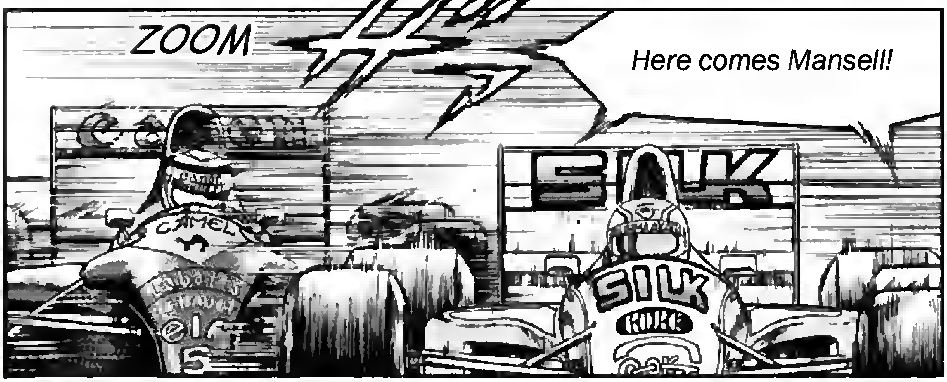
SCREEK
Perhaps people are just...
...still very much inexperi-enced, and...
Gunma Akagi...
Marlboro
HONDA
Shell
SILK CUT

31
WHISH
KRRT
...thrusts himself into the inside!
MA AKAGI
10
SUK

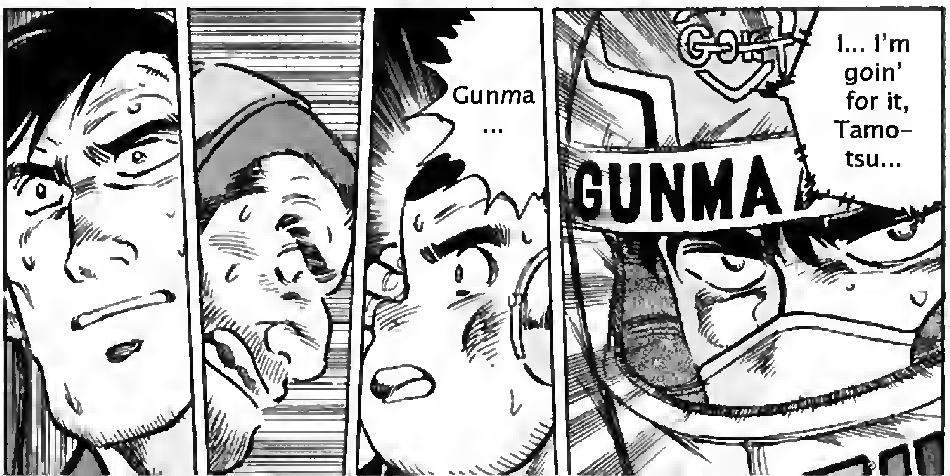
...
GUNMA
Hm!?

May-be...
ICEBE
Oh, but he can't quite make the pass! Senna, the king of racing, just won't let him!

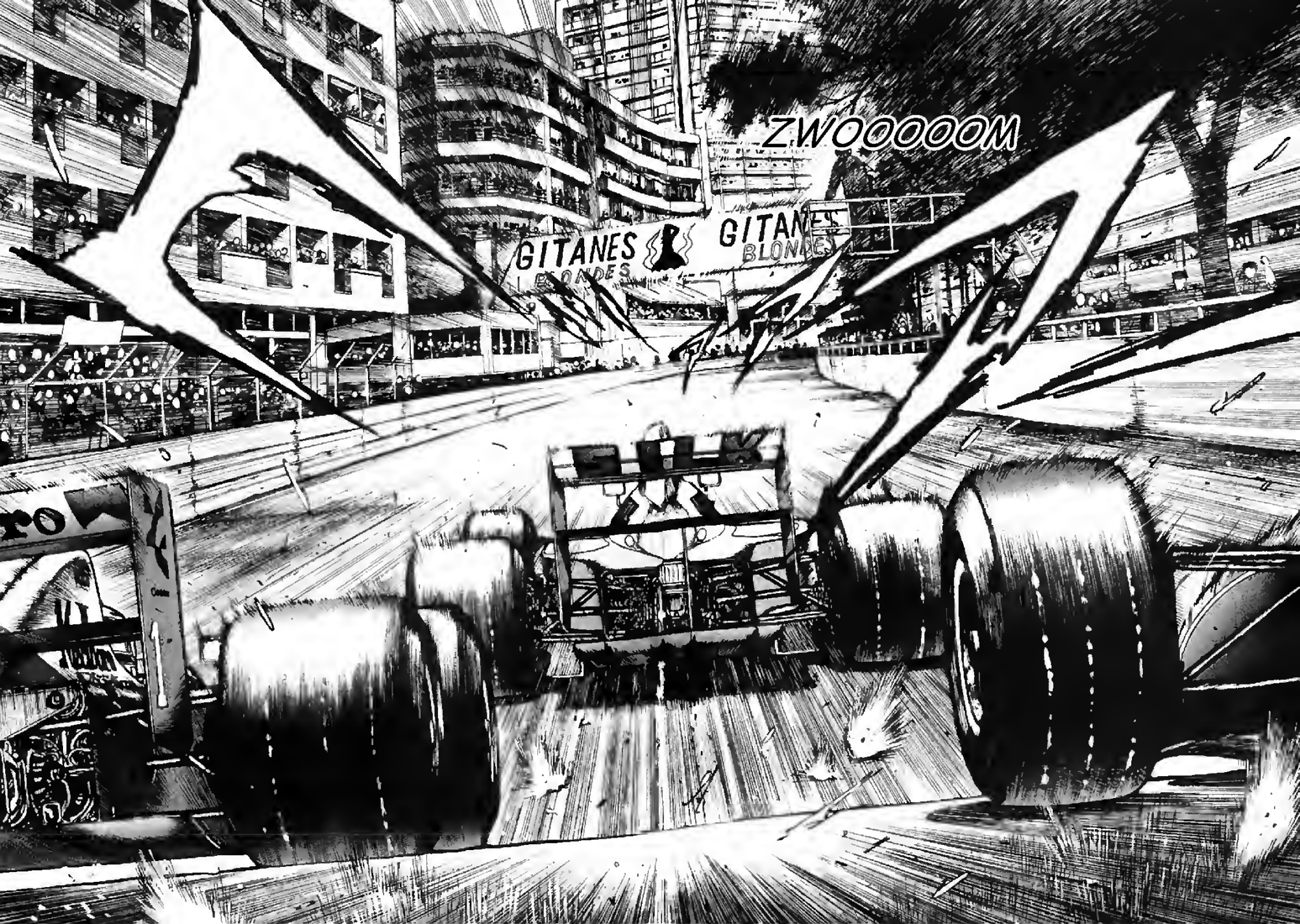

...to take our next step.
...we're all just trying...

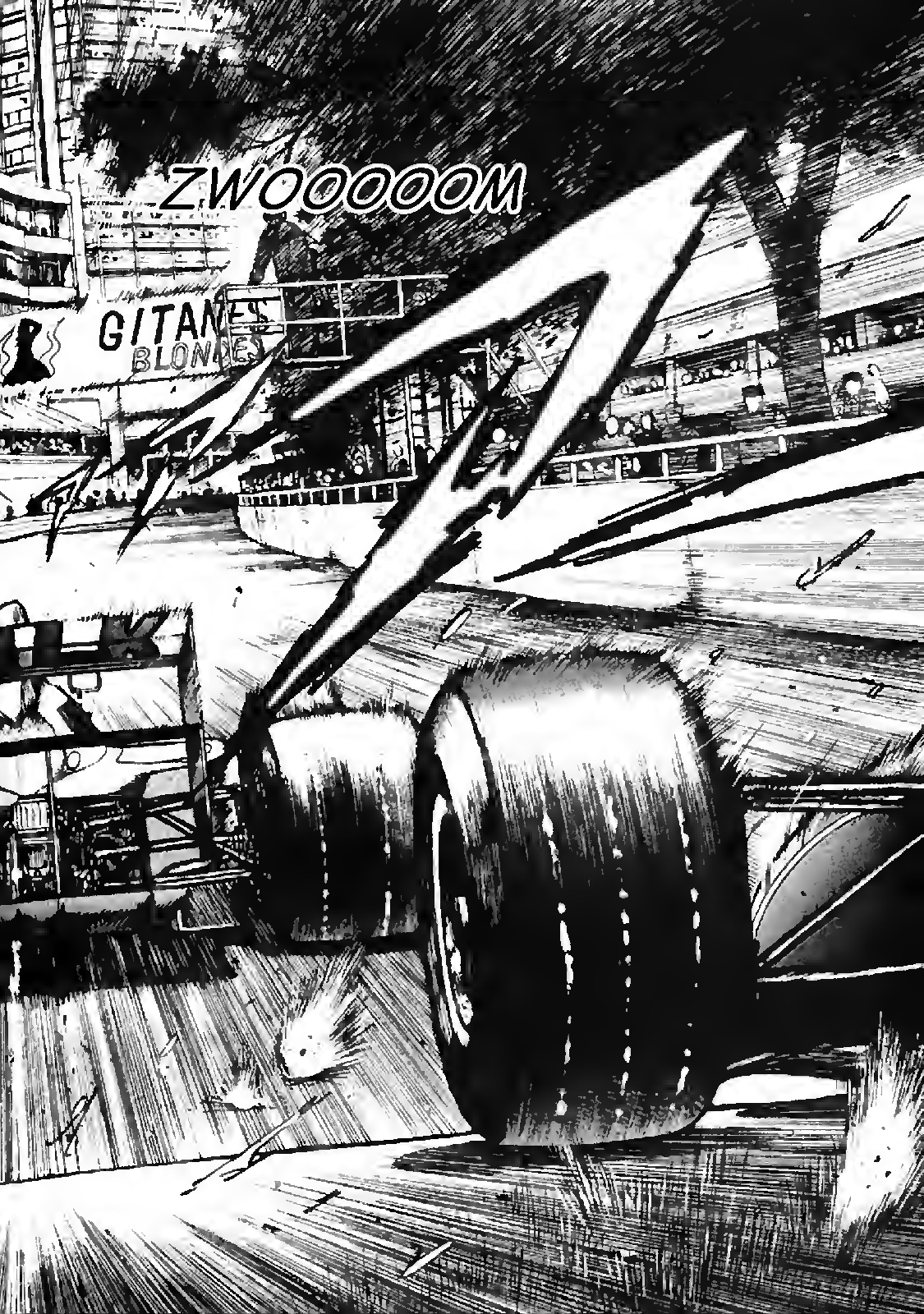

ZOOM
Here comes Mansell!
SILK
elf
5

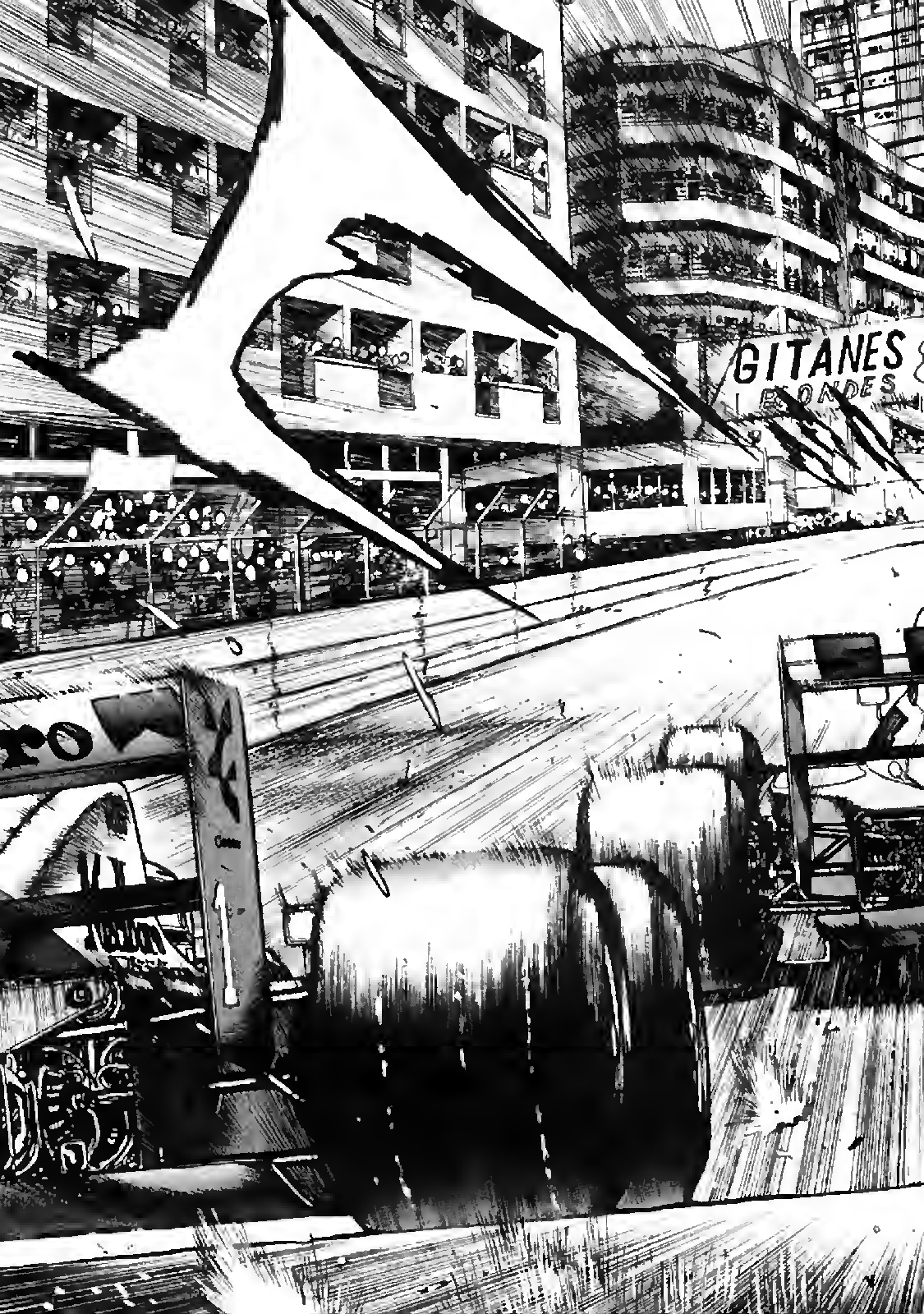
HONDA
NACIONAL
This is going to be tough for Senna! He must now take Mansell into consideration too, as he calculates his next move, lest that speedy Williams...


Gunma ...
I... I'm goin' for it, Tamo-tsu...
GUNMA

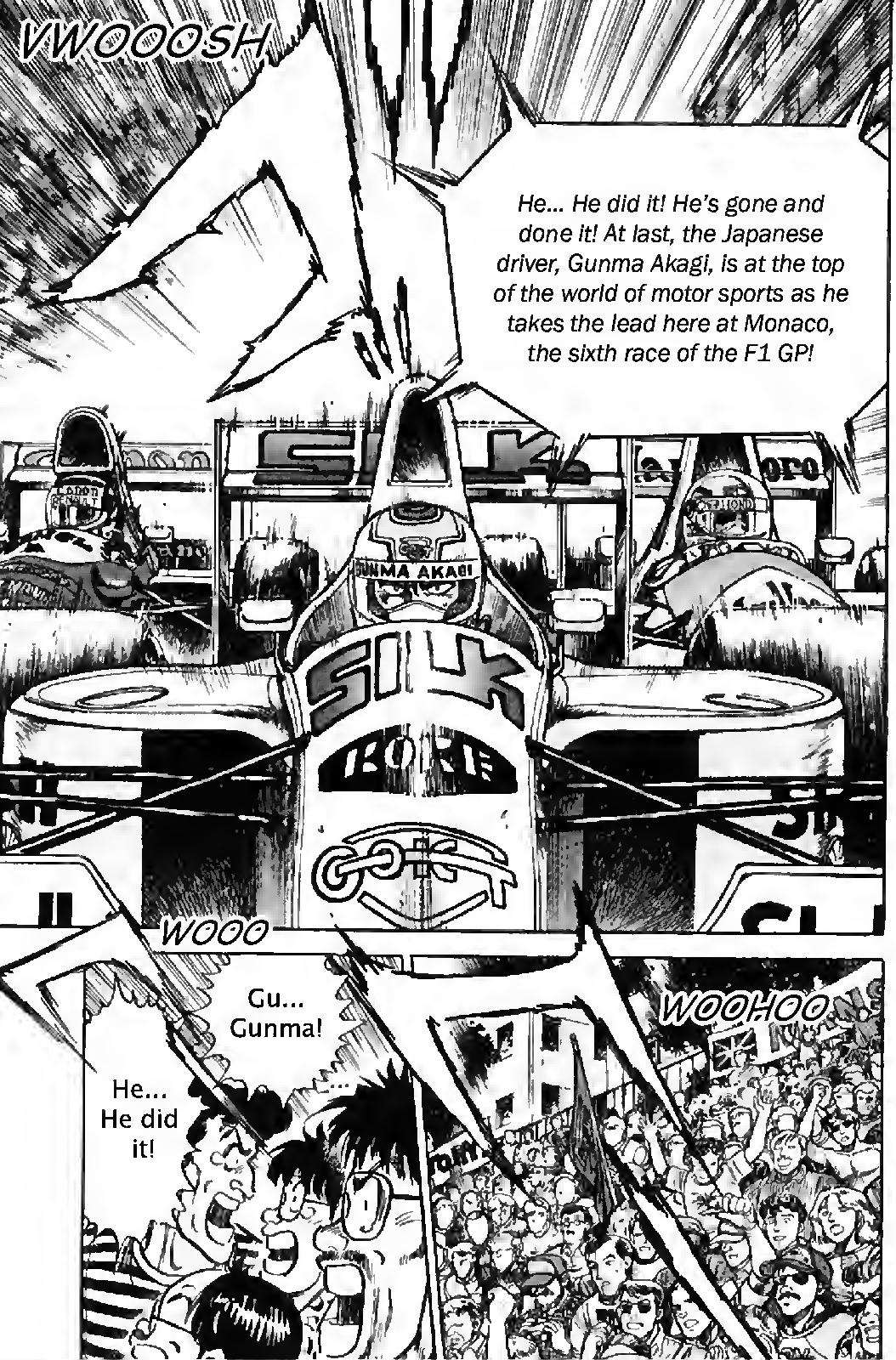
Whoaaa!
VREEEEEHHH
VWOOSH
Shell
3
Shell

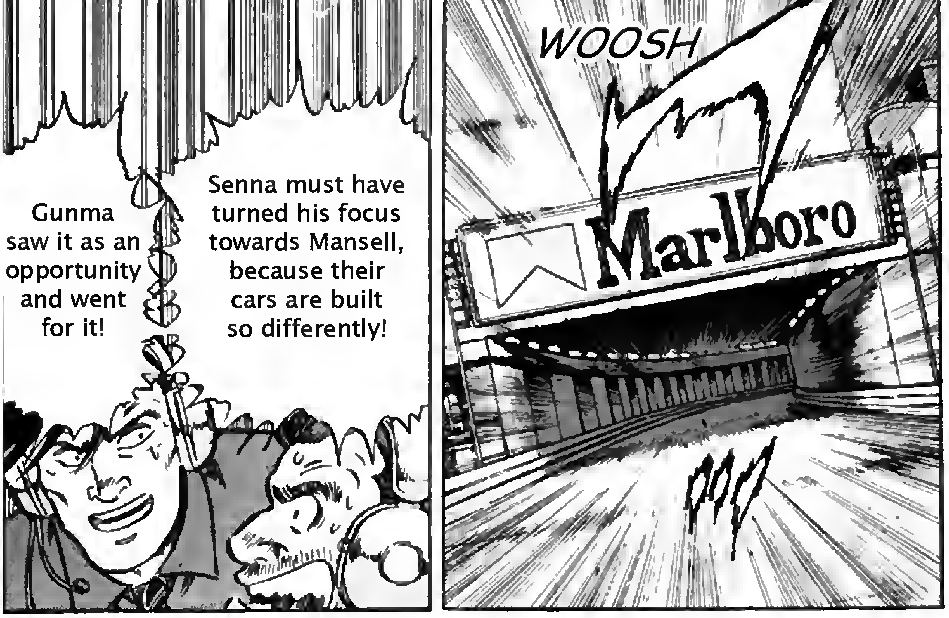

ZWOOOOOM
GITANES
BLONDES
GITANES
BLONDES


ZWOOOOOM
GITANES
BLONDES


GITANES

...
AKAGI
SILK
RENAULT
...Akagi...!?
Gunma...
HONDA


VWOOOSH
He... He did it! He's gone and done it! At last, the Japanese driver, Gunma Akagi, is at the top of the world of motor sports as he takes the lead here at Monaco, the sixth race of the F1 GP!
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
WOOO
Gu... Gunma!
He... He did it!
WOOHOO


Gunma saw it as an opportunity and went for it!
Senna must have turned his focus towards Mansell, because their cars are built so differently!
WOOSH
Marlboro

Ain't no one in front of you no more! Gunma!
Gunma, you're in the lead! You're in the lead!

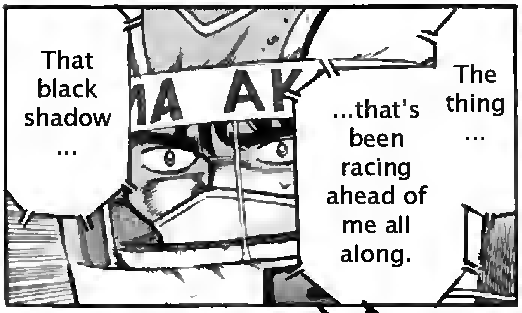
There's just one more...
No...

What!?

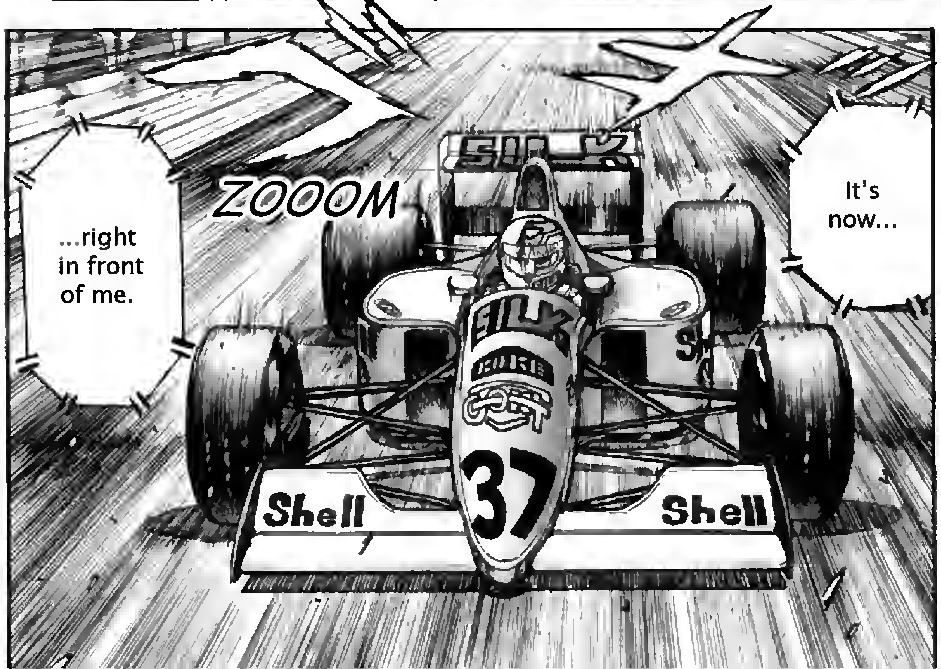
Chapter 9: Into the Tunnel

Gunma... What do you mean, there's one more?
...there's one more I gotta pass.
Like I said...
No...
You're probably seeing someone who's a lap behind!
No! There ain't no one in front of you no more! Mansell, Senna, you passed them all!

FWOOSH
I'll bet there really is something racing ahead of Gunma...

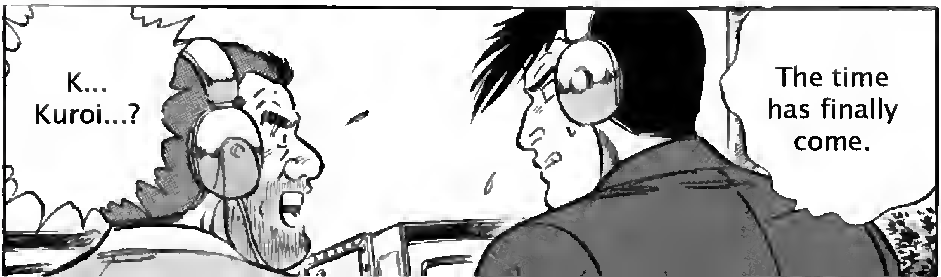

That black shadow ...
...that's been racing ahead of me all along.
The thing ...

KSSHH
It's that thing...


ZOOOM
...right in front of me.
It's now...
Shell
37
Shell

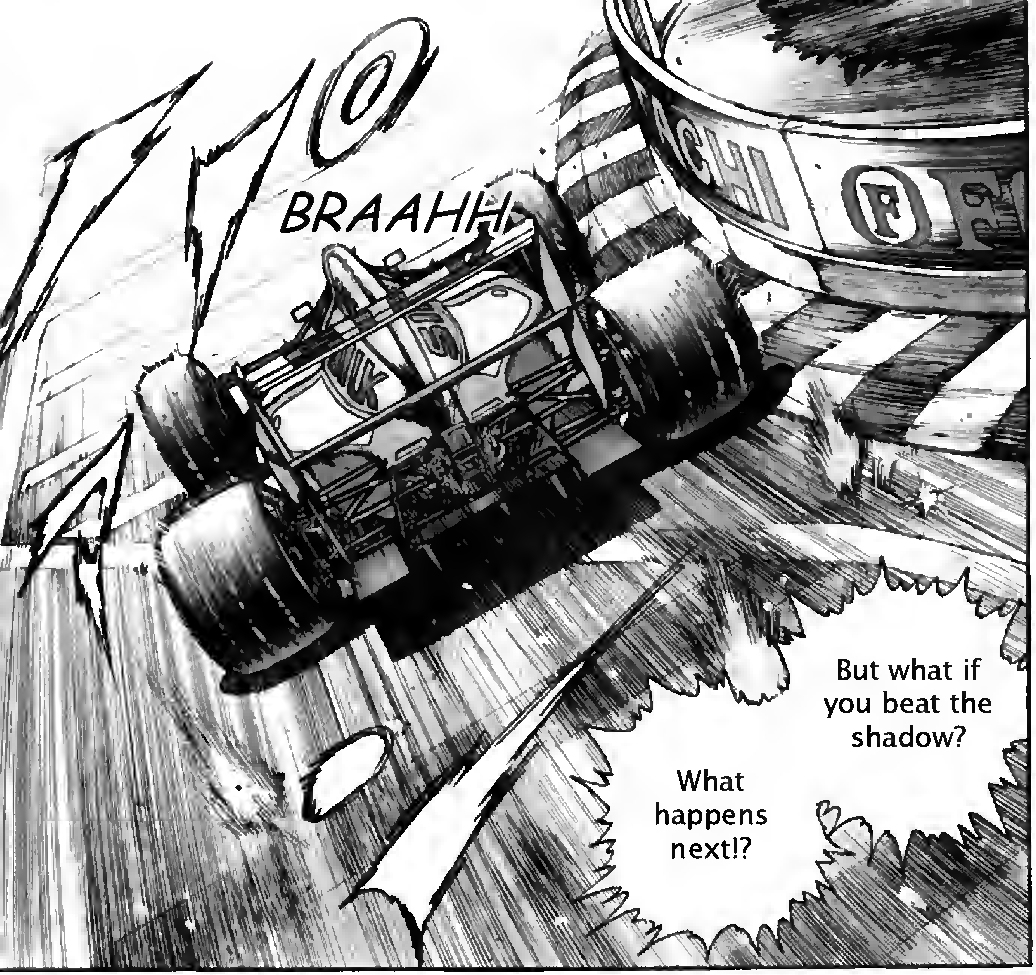
I'll get you, you bastard!
ZWOOOH
VREHHH

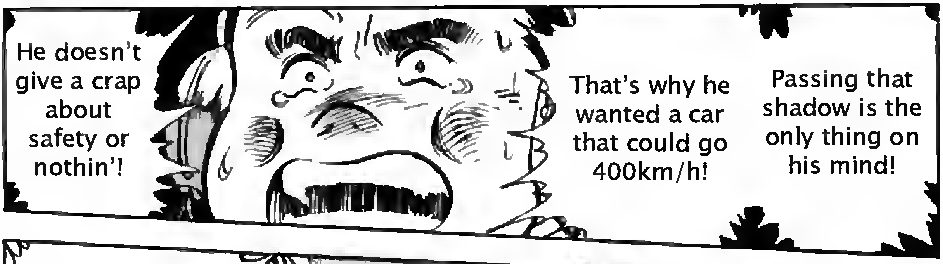
Gu... Gunma...


K... Kuroi...?
The time has finally come.

He's been racing all this time, trying to chase that black shadow.
Gunma ...
For him...
...F1 was just another means for him to try to pass it.
37
...ever since Gunma was plowing through the boonies in that remodeled tractor with Tamotsu...
I'm willing to bet that...
...all along, his real enemy...
...he's had some other rivals along the way, but...
...and F3000...
...and all the way through FJ and F3...

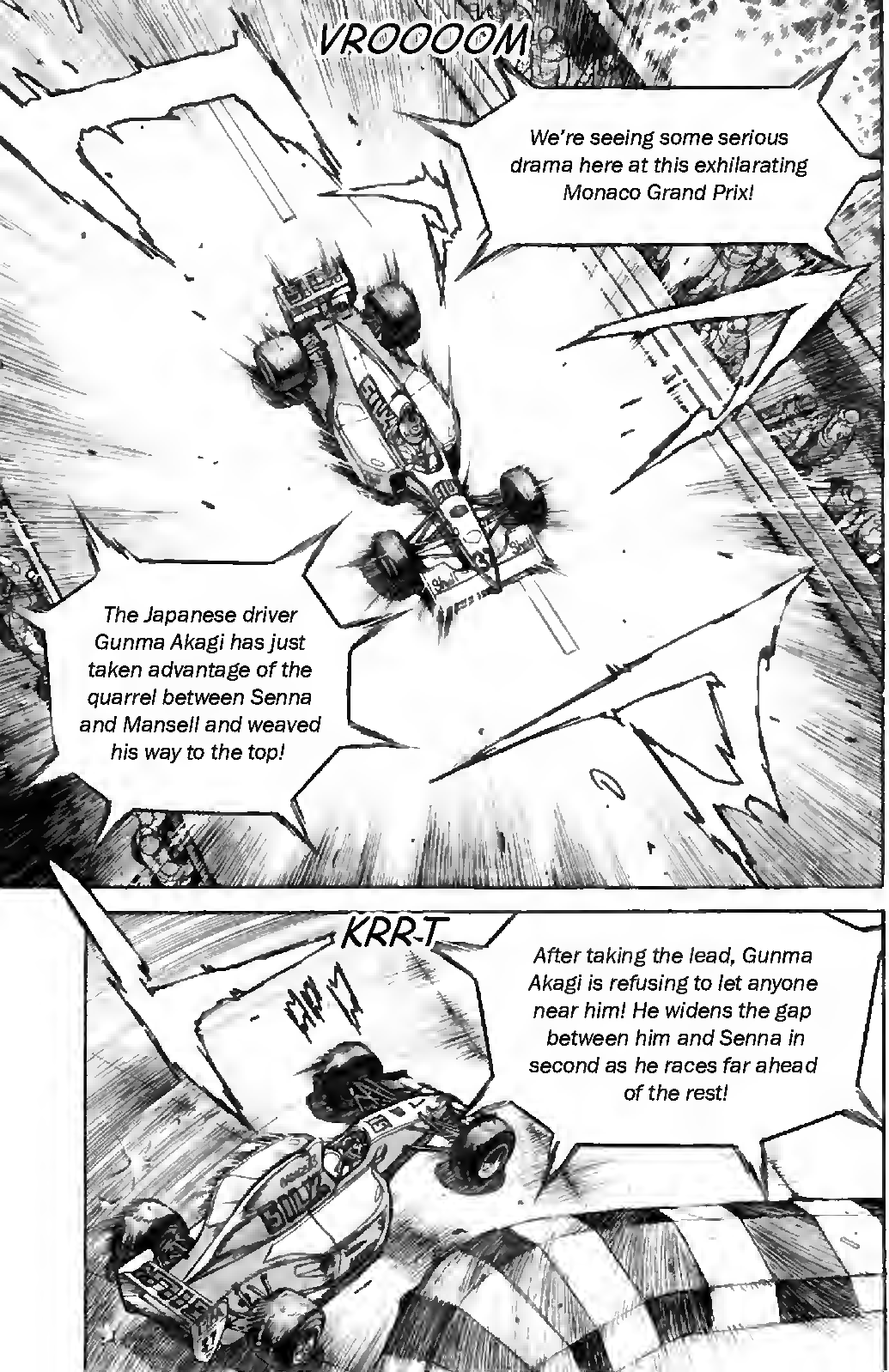
WOOSH
...has been that black shadow that only he can see.
...his true rival...
SILK
Yeah. All this time, he's been chasing a phantom.
A phantom that lives within him, you mean!
Isn't that right, Tamo-tsu?
But...
...he'll never be satis-fied.
And as long as that phantom is ahead of him...
...see a shadow of ourselves within our enemy, and we push ourselves to try and beat that shadow.
You might be right.
In the end, all of us...
...!


BRAAHH
But what if you beat the shadow?
What happens next!?


He doesn't give a crap about safety or nothin'!
That's why he wanted a car that could go 400km/h!
Passing that shadow is the only thing on his mind!

The people he might leave behind, like us, and Junko, and the baby she's about to have...
OFOSTERS
VRRRRR
On this slippery circuit in Monaco, he's kept his dolphin paint on all this time. All in an effort to pass that shadow.

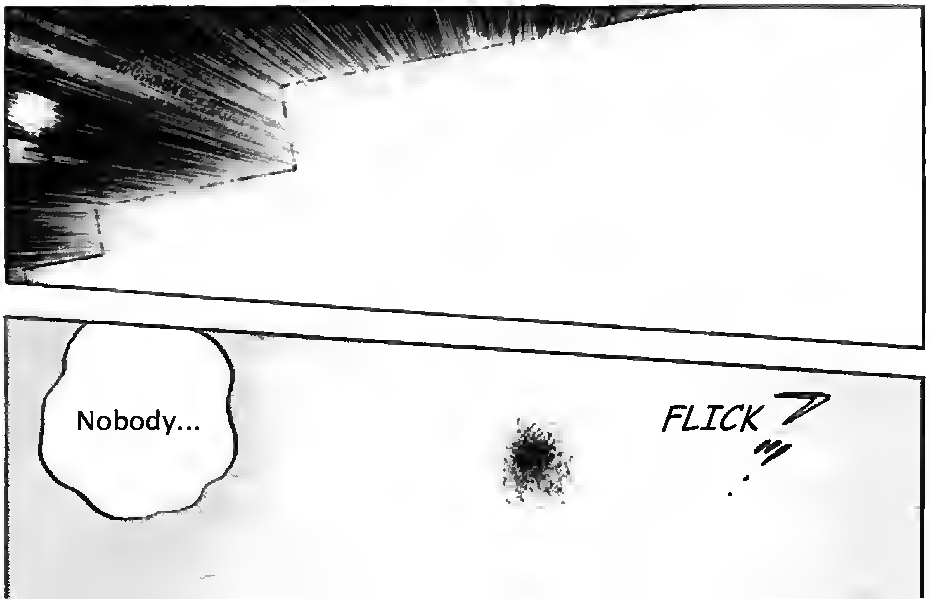
WOOSH
He ain't thinking about any of us!
Can we stop him? Should we yell into his earpiece?
But what can we do about it?
For God's sake...
...I won't let Gunma die!
I... I made a promise to Jesus once.
That as a mechanic... As Gunma's mechanic...
T... Tamotsu ...!?
There's one thing we can do to stop Gunma!
There is one thing we can do.


VROOOOM
We're seeing some serious drama here at this exhilarating Monaco Grand Prix!
The Japanese driver Gunma Akagi has just taken advantage of the quarrel between Senna and Mansell and weaved his way to the top!
KRR-T
After taking the lead, Gunma Akagi is refusing to let anyone near him! He widens the gap between him and Senna in second as he races far ahead of the rest!

GITANES
BLONDES
WOOSH
Naturally, in racing, there is no letting your guard down even after taking the lead, but...
...for him, it seems like it's not even a matter of keeping his guard up. It almost seems like he's still trying to pass somebody, despite already having taken the lead! He zips through the straight, thrusts right into the corner, and puts out his fastest lap yet!

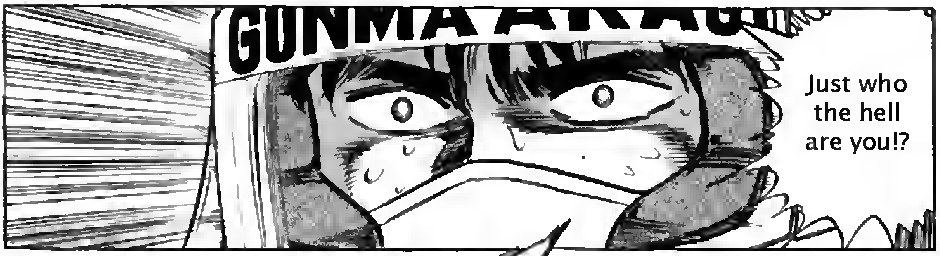
ZOOOOM
Ten laps left to go! Tires screech as they're scraped down to the limit! As bits of burnt tire litter the track, there's no taking chances for even the slightest misstep!
GITANES
BLONDES

Has there ever been a driver like him?
Gunma Akagi!
He's not like Gilles Villeneuve, Jackie Stewart, nor even Niki Lauda...
...nor Nelson Piquet, nor Alain Prost, nor the genius Senna, nor Mansell, the bullet! He's like none other!
AKAGI
SILK
Woooo
Gunma Akagi! You're...
SILK
33


Nobody...
FLICK

ZWOOOOM
VREHH
...gets in front of me!
...
!?
Twice ...
Who the hell are you!?
You...
GUNMA

WOOSH
Are you the ghosts of all the F1 drivers who've died during races?
Ryuji... Is that you?
Or are you Hijiri...?

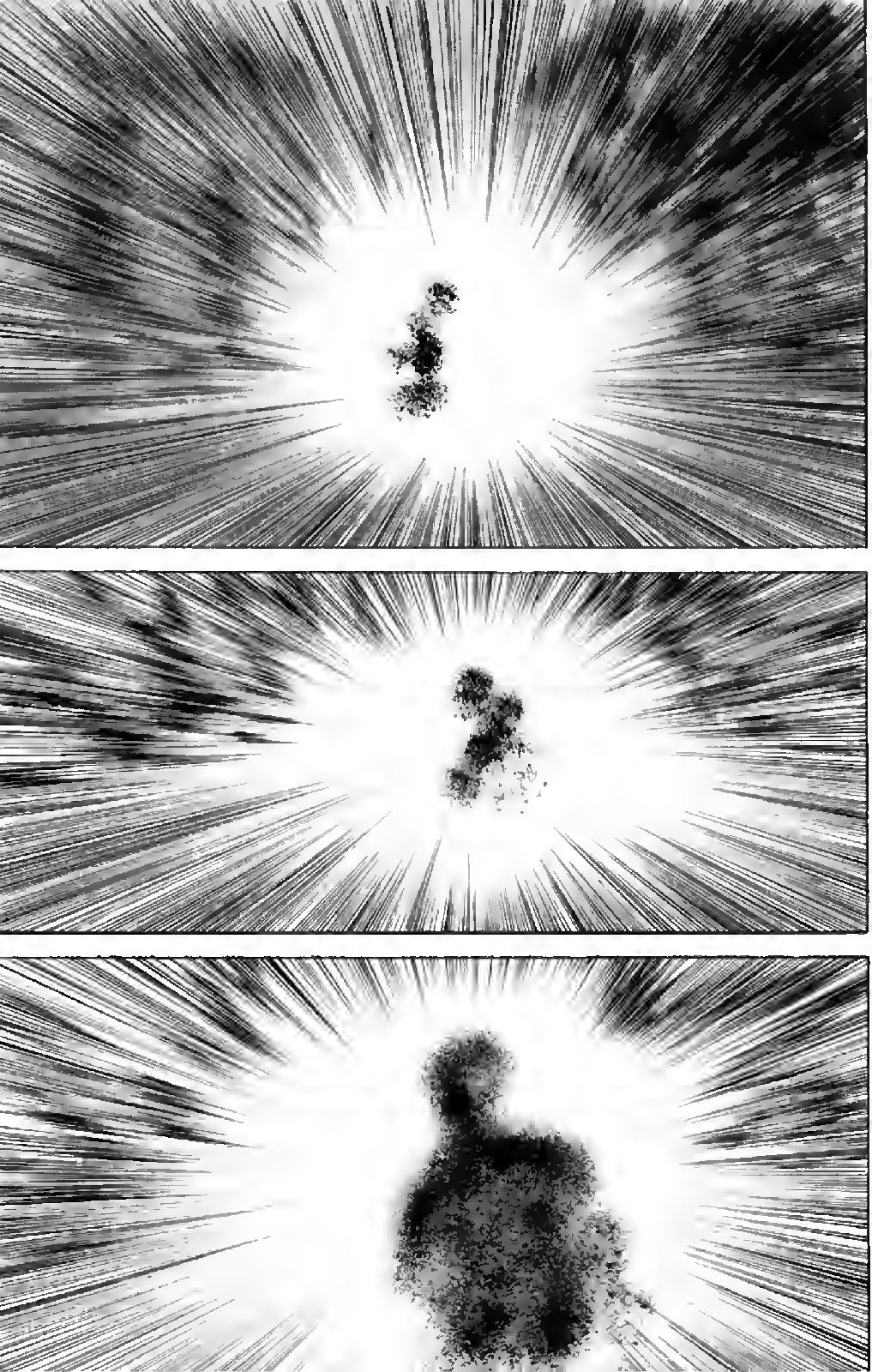

GUNMA AKAGI
Just who the hell are you!?

GO!
KRRT
ON
ZWOOOM

He... He said it twice...
Can we do something to stop Gunma!?
T...Tamotsu! Is there something we can do or not!?
So what!?
His phrase, "nobody gets in front of me." He said it once at the beginning of the race, and again just now.
Said what!?
...the dolphin paint will be deacti-vated!
If Gunma says his line a third time... Just one more time...
Just one more time, it'll...
If he says it one more time...
If we wanna stop Gunma, we just gotta get him to say his line one more time!
W... What!?

WOOOSH
GITANES
BLONDES

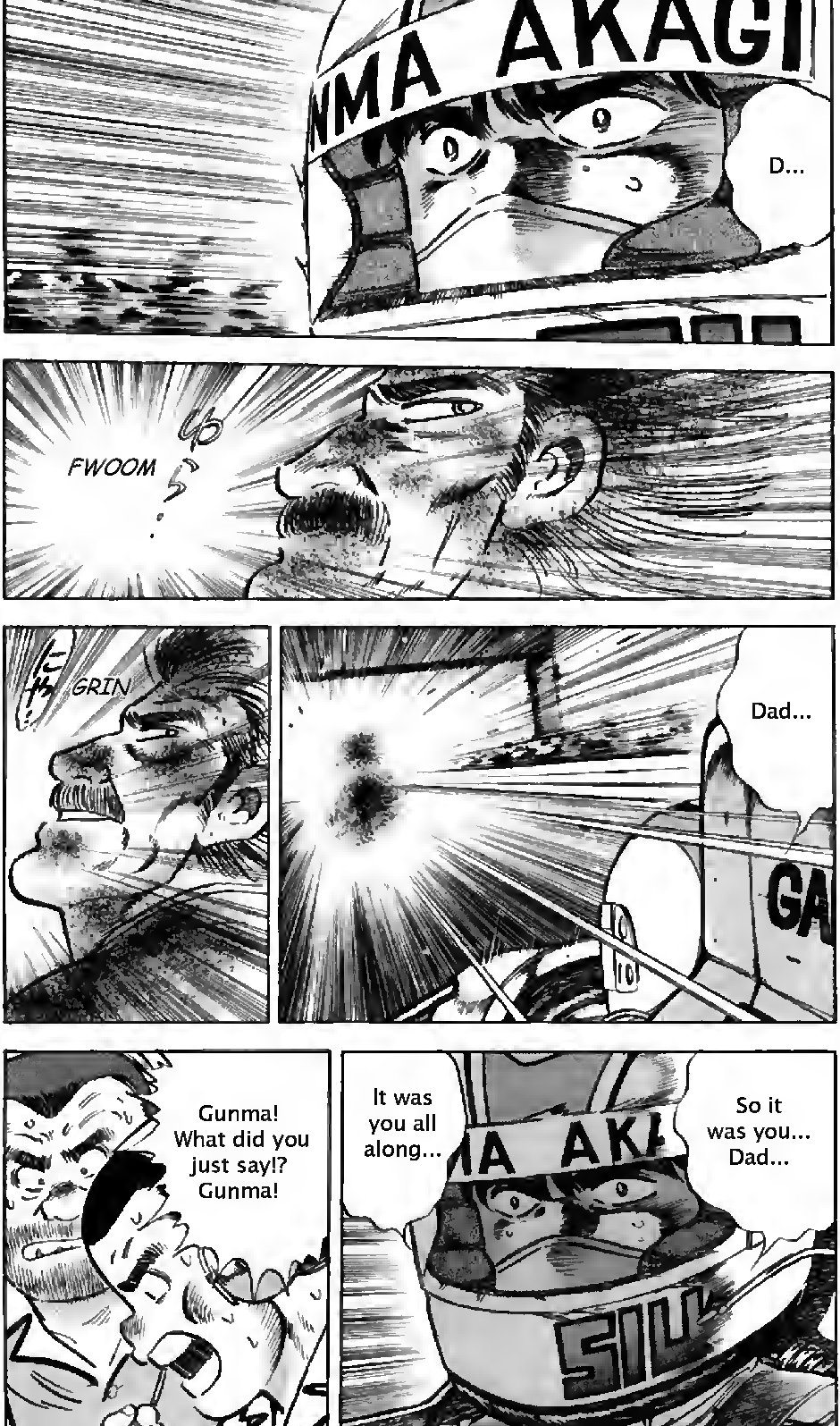
WOOSH
I gotta pass him...
Come on... Go...
AA



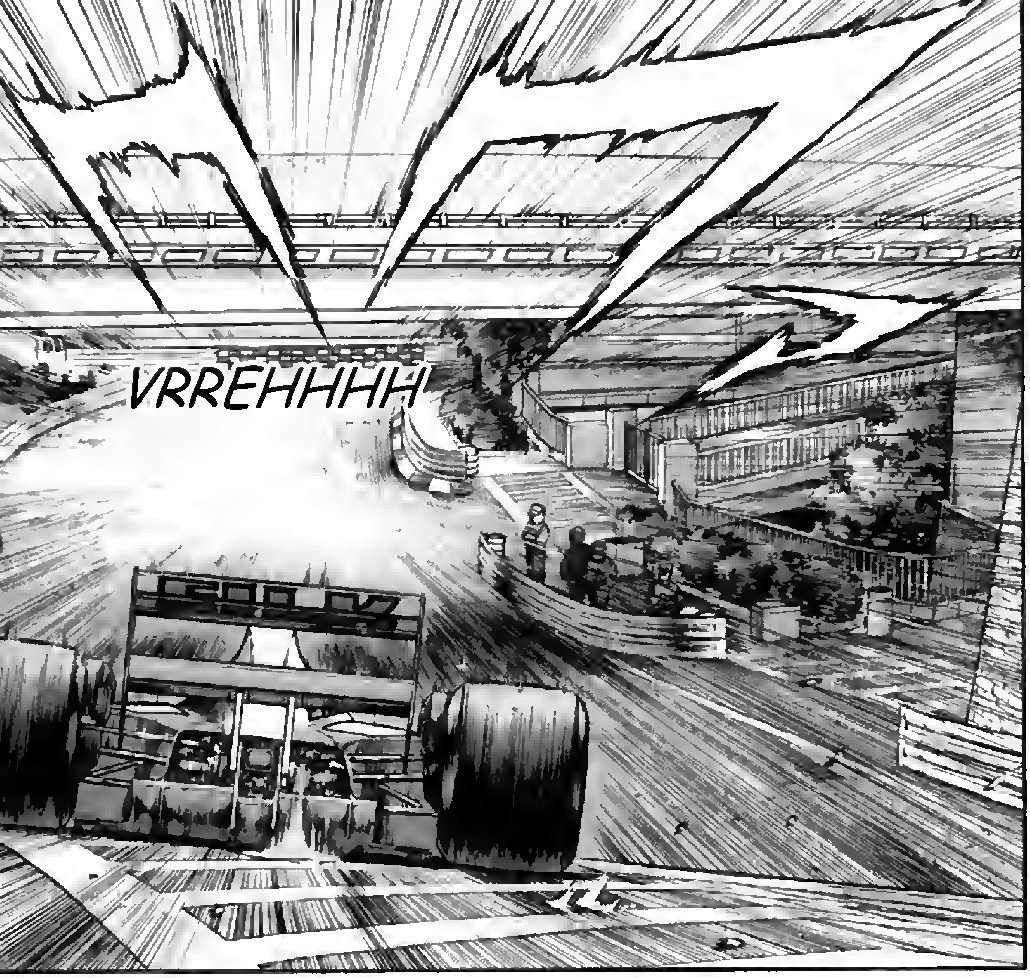
GUNMA AKAGI
Wh...
GUNMA AKAGI
Wh...
FWIP
Who are you!?

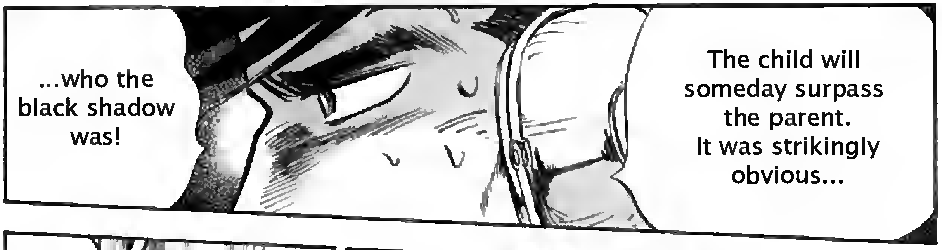
Chapter 10: Father

GUNMA AKAGI

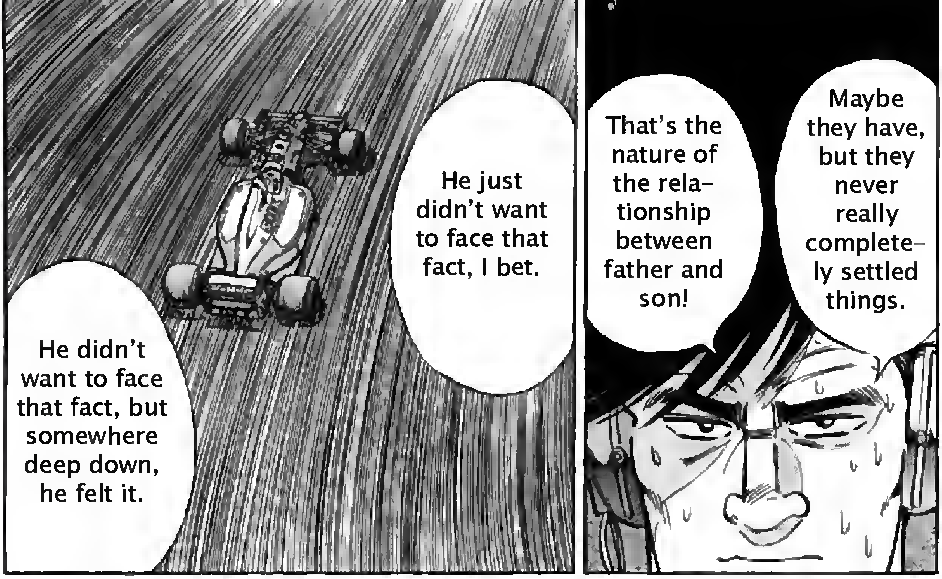

NMA AKAGI
D...
FWOOM
GRIN
Dad...
Gunma! What did you just say!? Gunma!
It was you all along...
So it was you... Dad...

He said, "Dad..."
!?
Say that again! I couldn't hear you, Gunma!
Dad...
All this time...
The black shadow that was standing in my way all this time...
...all this damn time...
...you were in front of me...
ZWOOOM
...was you, Dad! It was you!

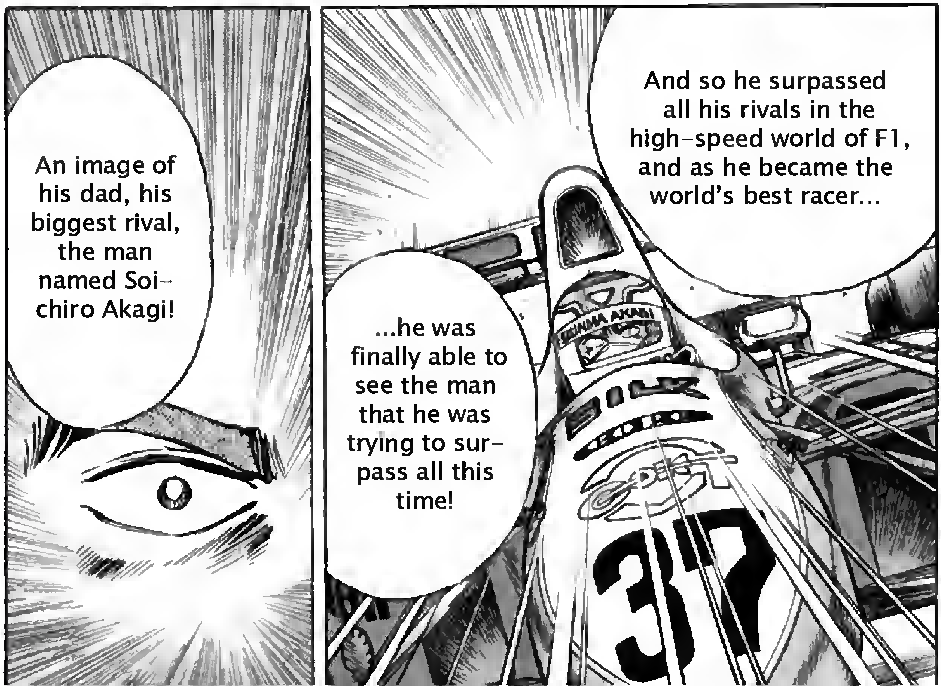

VRREHHHHH

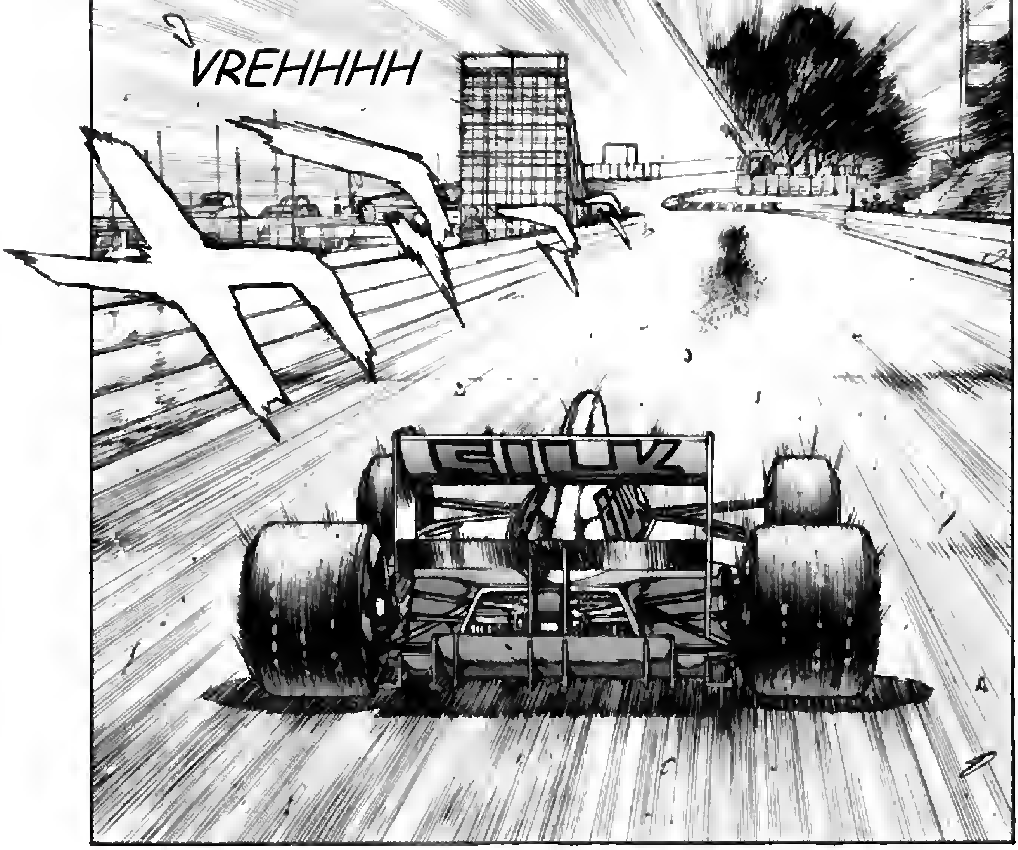

...who the black shadow was!
The child will someday surpass the parent. It was strikingly obvious...

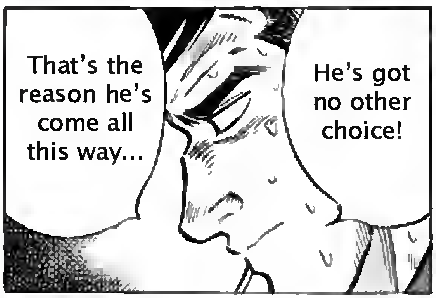
No... I don't think so.
Recon-ciled?
His dad visited him in England once!
But... it can't be! Gunma said that he'd already reconciled with his dad!

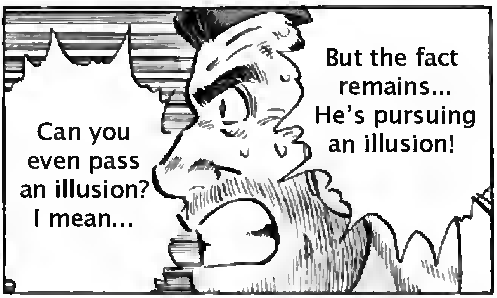

He didn't want to face that fact, but somewhere deep down, he felt it.
He just didn't want to face that fact, I bet.
That's the nature of the relationship between father and son!
Maybe they have, but they never really completely settled things.

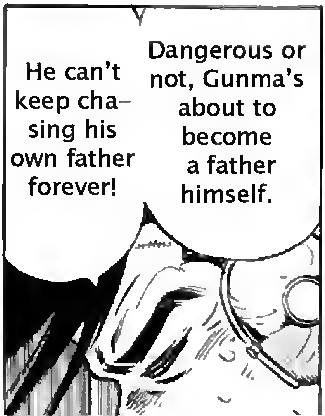
In order to surpass the giant that was his father, he felt the need to become a giant himself, in some shape or form.
That giant, looming presence...


An image of his dad, his biggest rival, the man named Soichiro Akagi!
...he was finally able to see the man that he was trying to surpass all this time!
And so he surpassed all his rivals in the high-speed world of F1, and as he became the world's best racer...


VREHHHH


That's the reason he's come all this way...
He's got no other choice!


Can you even pass an illusion? I mean...
But the fact remains... He's pursuing an illusion!


He can't keep chasing his own father forever!
Dangerous or not, Gunma's about to become a father himself.

But... This is too dangerous...

...and passed everyone who's stood in his way...

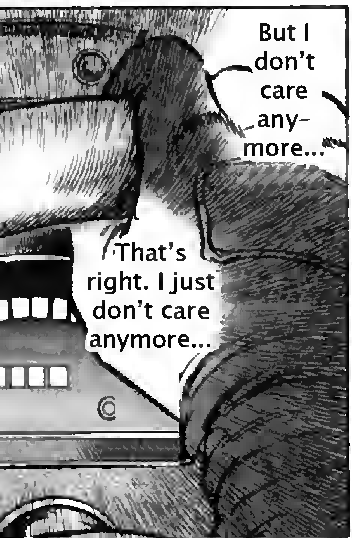
He... He's firin' him up...
Wh... What are you sayin' ...?
CLENCH
You've come a long, long way!
All right, Gunma! You've finally figured out who your true enemy is!
You're not a kid anymore! You're a man, Gunma!
Do it for Junko, and for the kid she's about to have!
Pass him! Drive right past his ass!
Yep! If he says the words, the computer will pick them up and send instructions to...
Tamotsu, are you sure the dolphin paint will switch off when he says those words?
Come on! Say your line!
Come on...
Hey, you listening to me Gunma!?

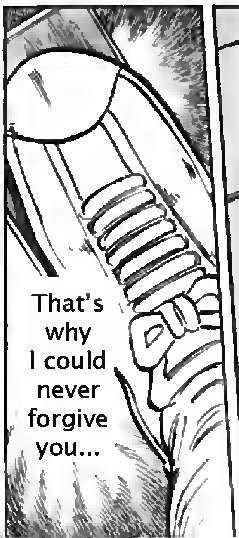
SKRRRT
...
Yell out your famous line!
...to the big man above...
All we can do now is pray...
Sigh...

Hey, Dad...
GUNMAAKAGI
I passed everyone else...
...and now you're the only bastard left...

Come over here.
Come, Gunma.

Try and pass me...
You think you can pass me?
Come on.

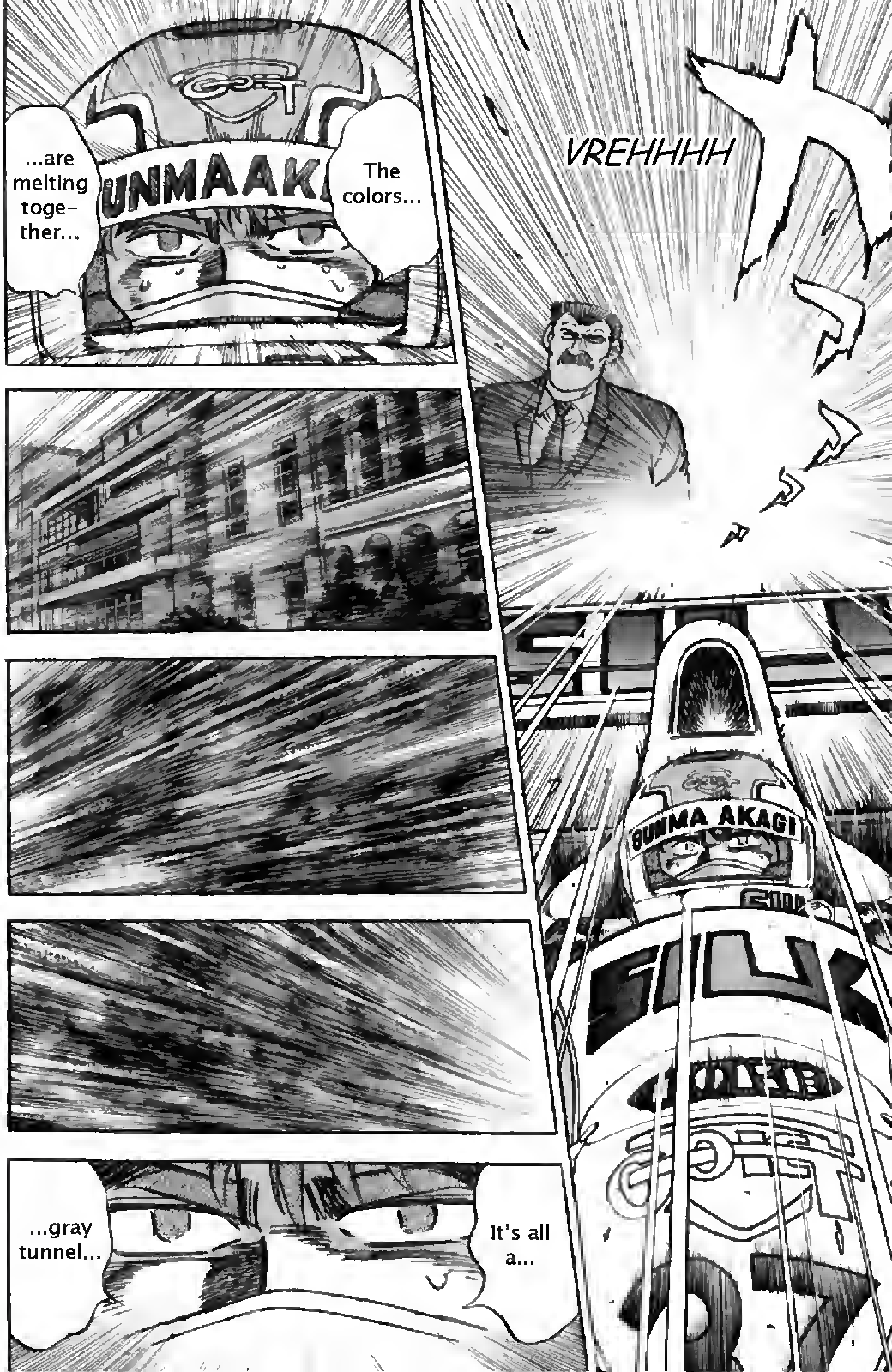

But I don't care any-more...
That's right. I just don't care anymore...

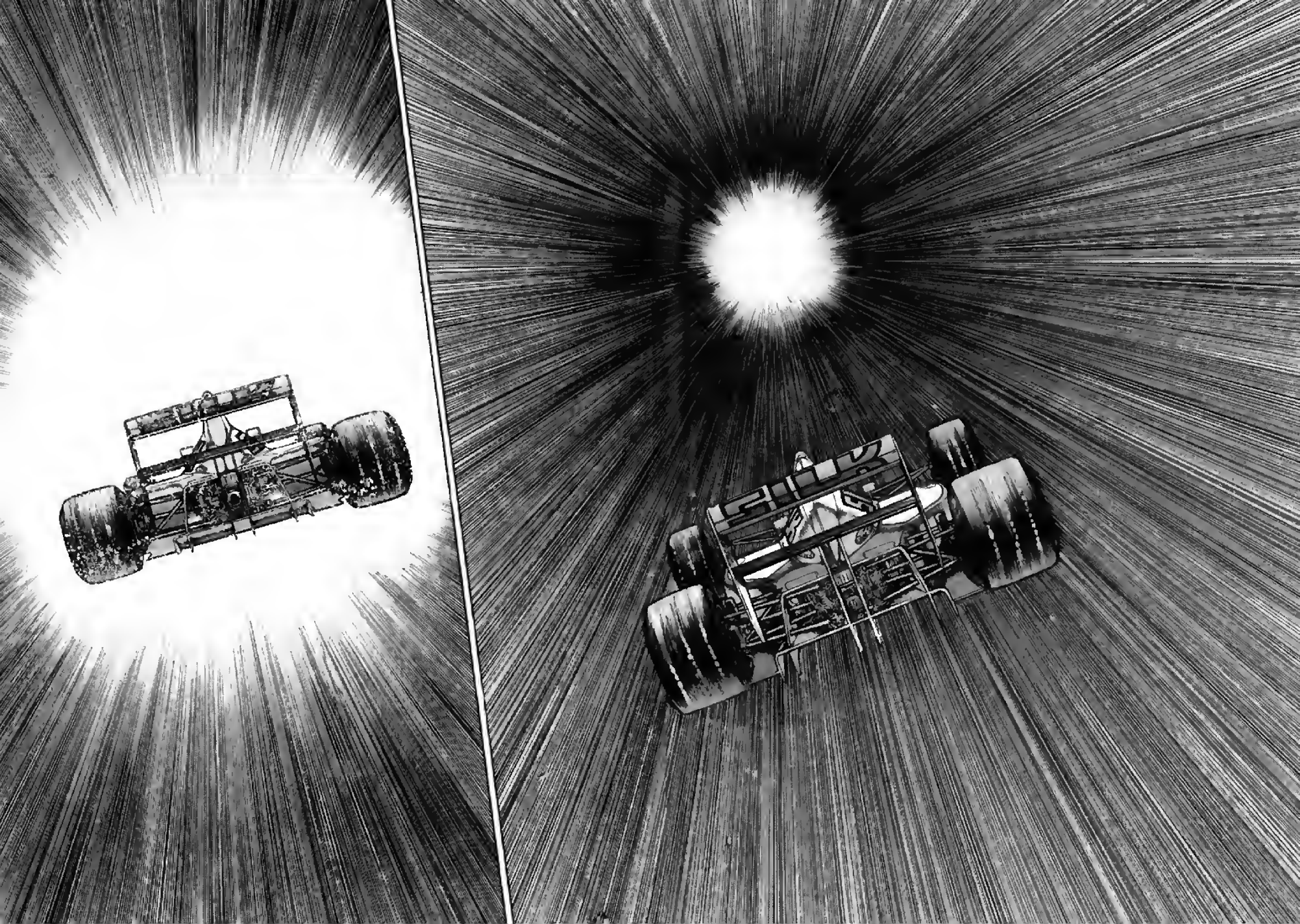

That's why I could never forgive you...

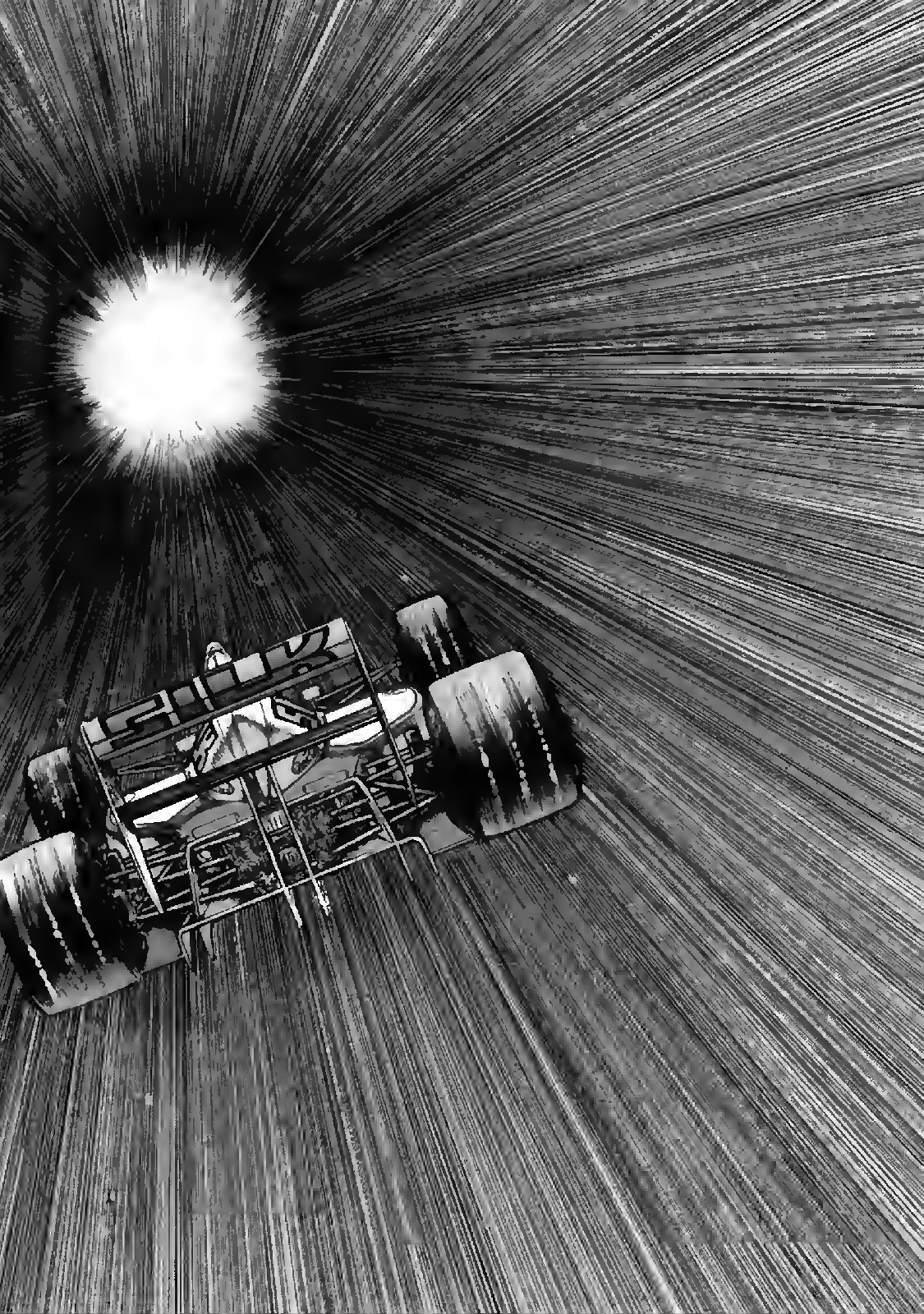
...and I respected you...
Dad... I... I loved you, Dad...

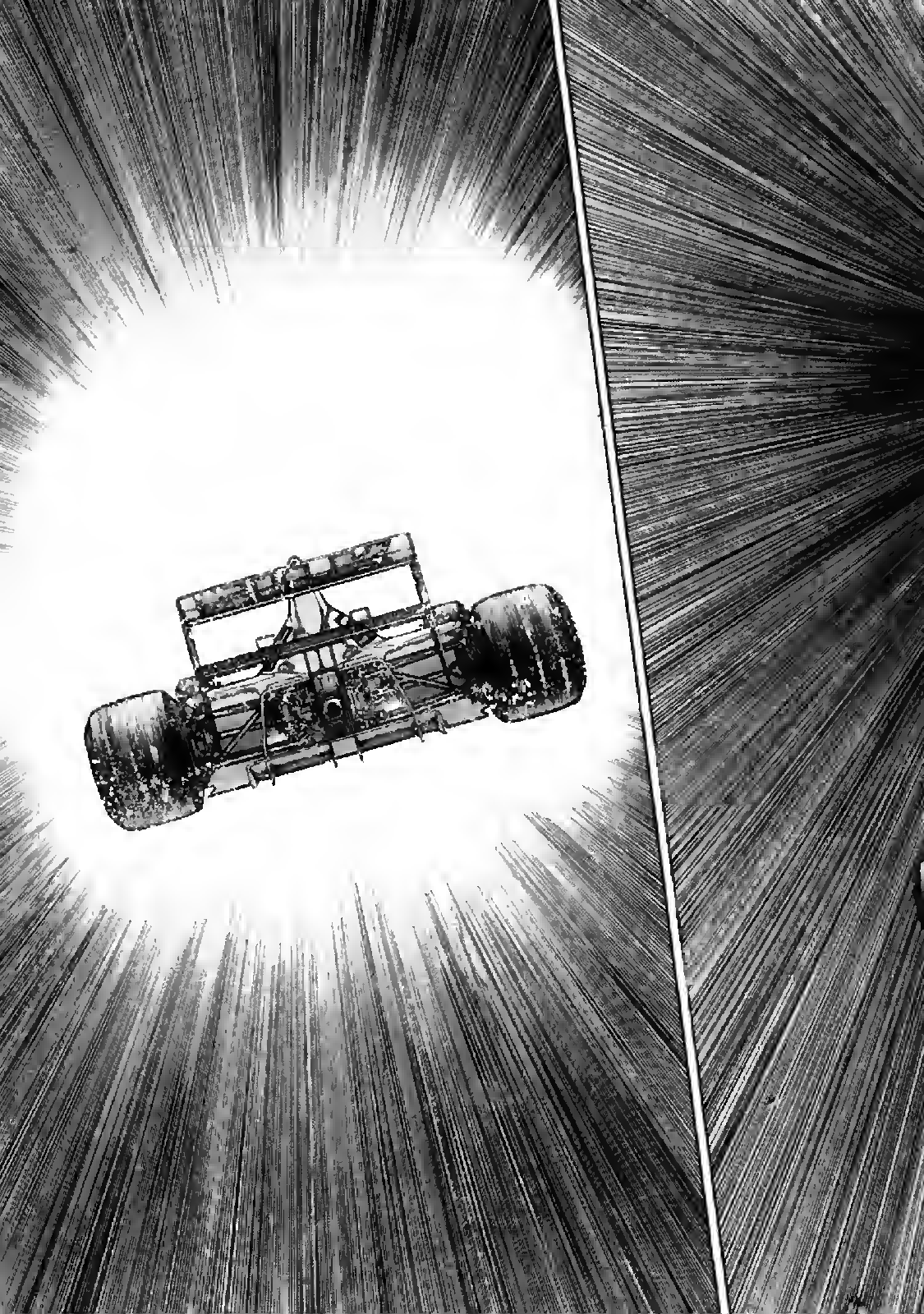
VREHHHHH
It doesn't matter anymore!

AKAGI
10
SILK
AKAGI
SILK
FLASH

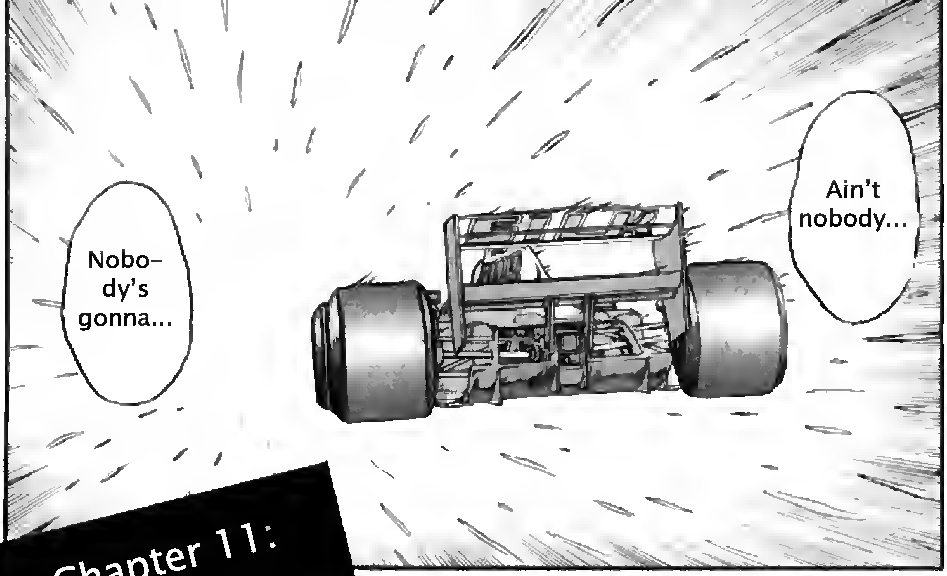

...are melting toge-ther...
The colors...
VREHHHH
GUNMA AKAGI
...gray tunnel...
It's all a...



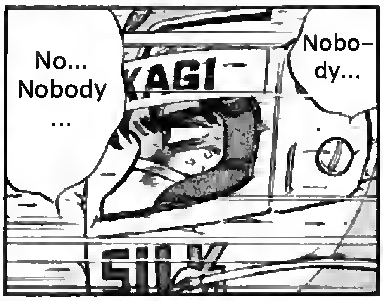

SILK

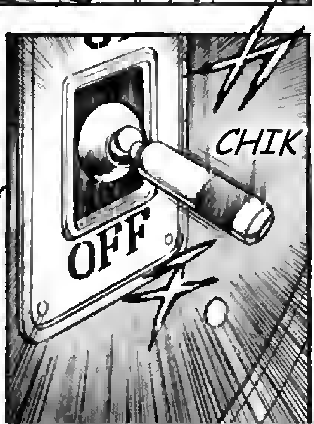


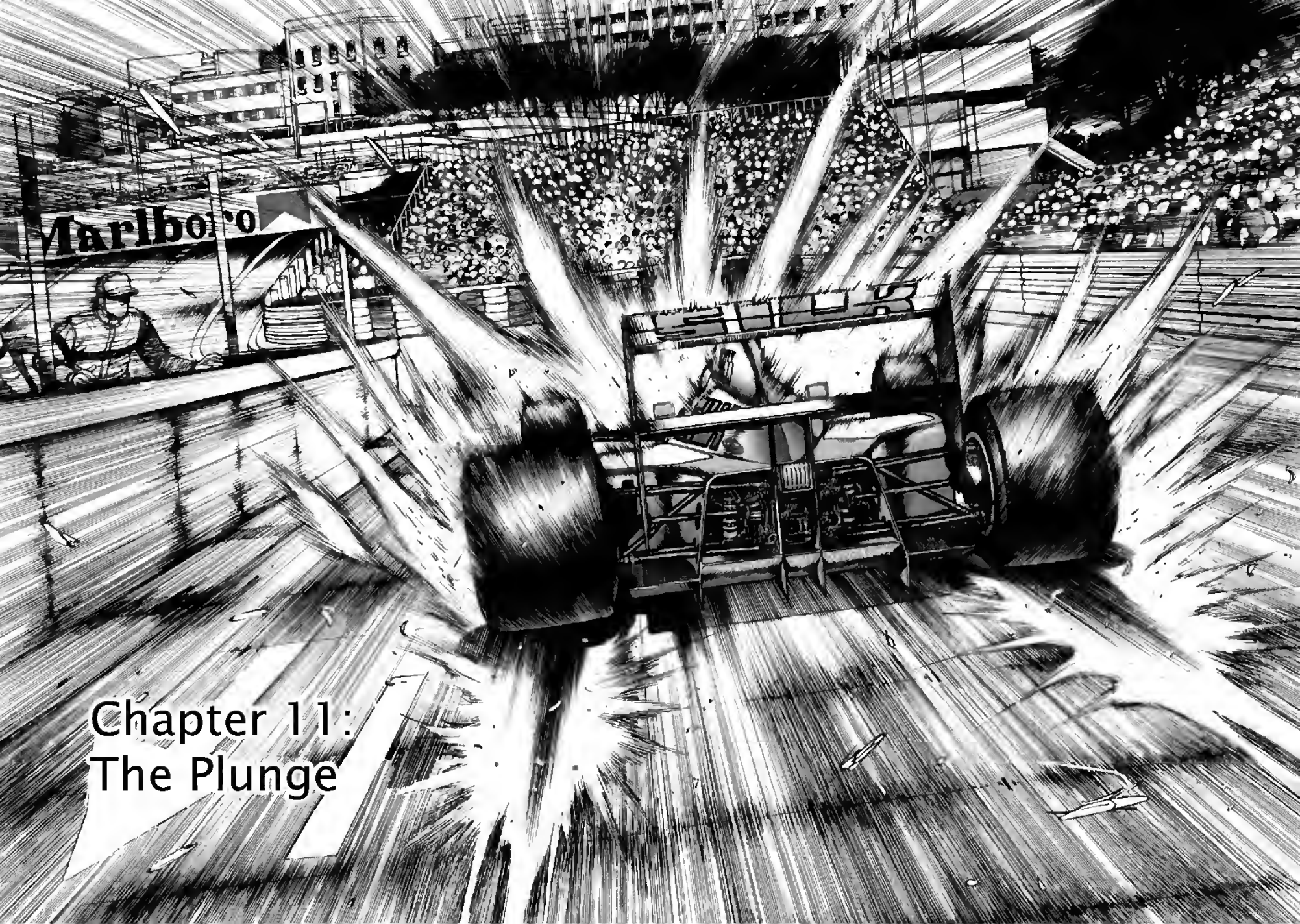
Say it! What are you waiting for! Say your catch-phrase!
Gunma!
Gunma!
... Nobody ...
Nobody ever will...
Nobody can...



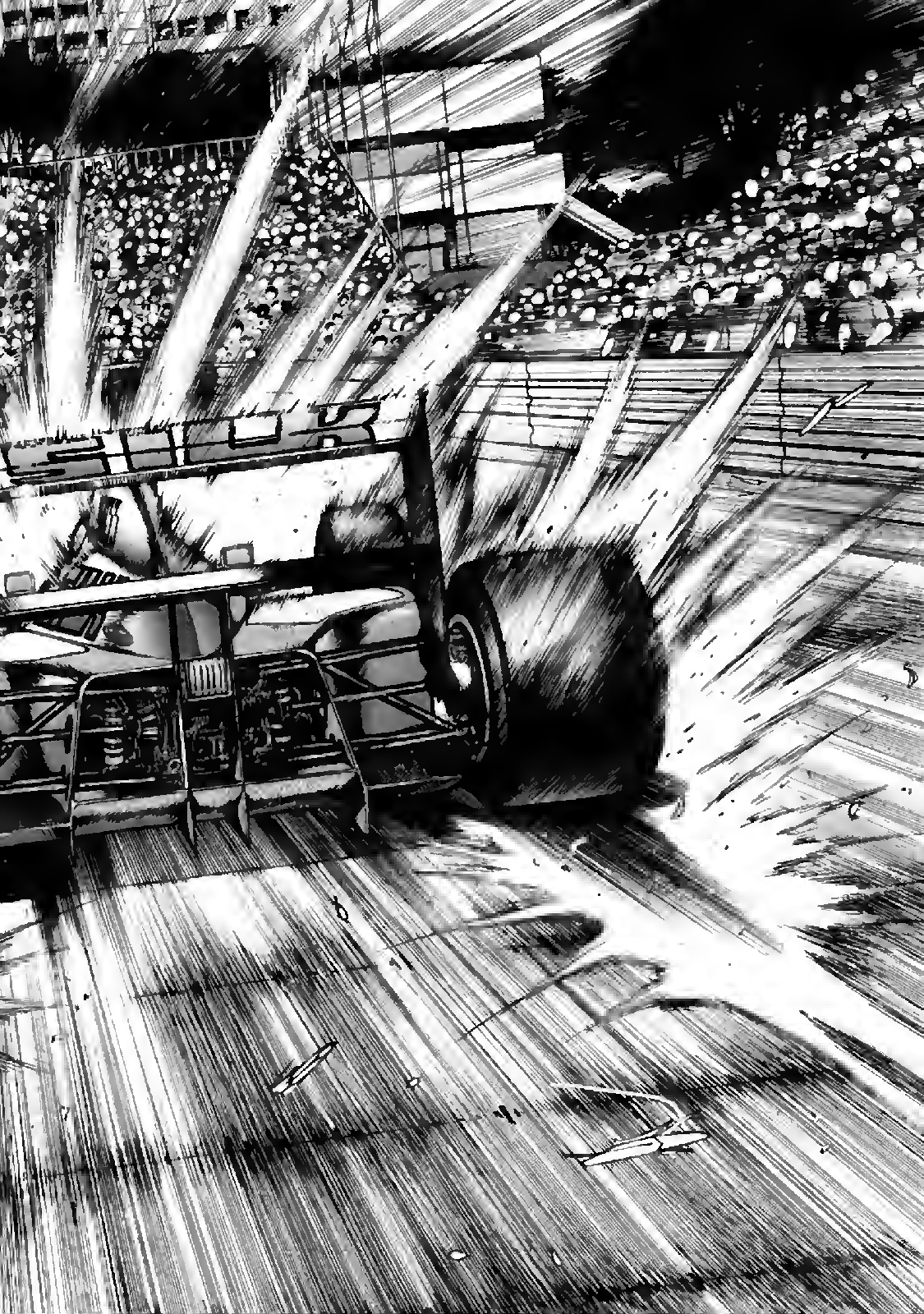
Chapter 11: The Plunge

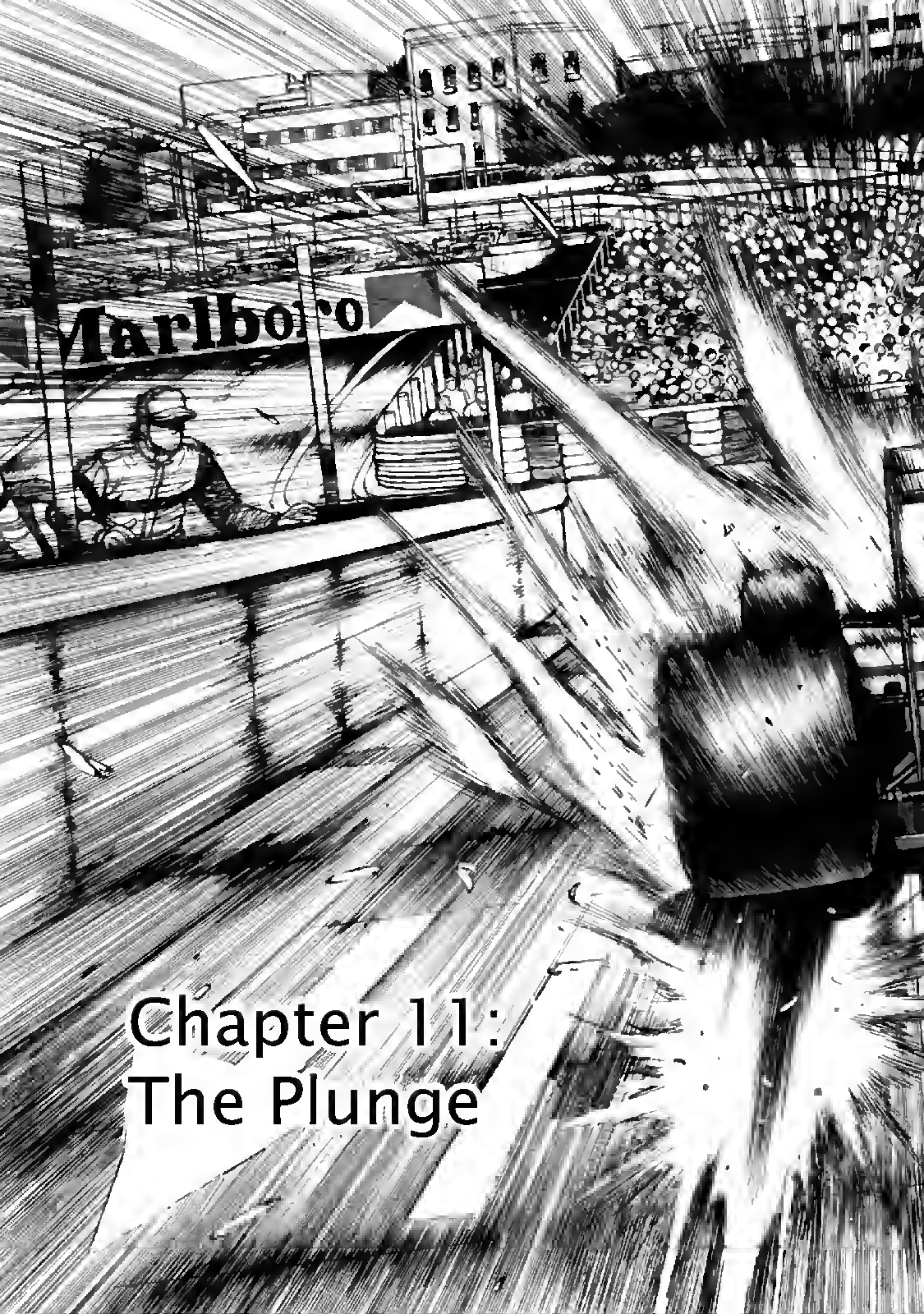






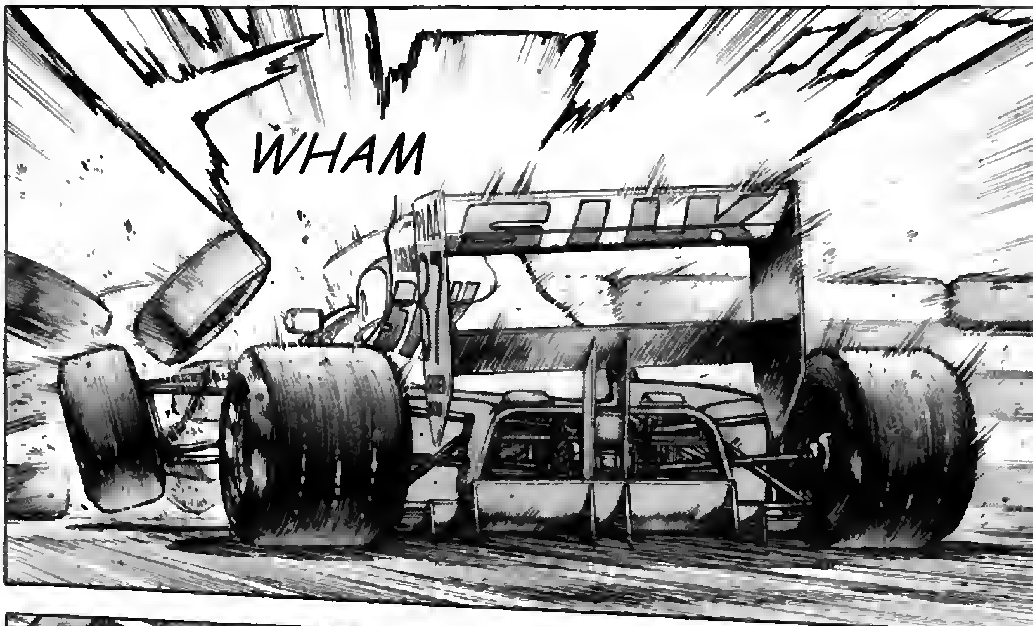
Chapter 11: The Plunge

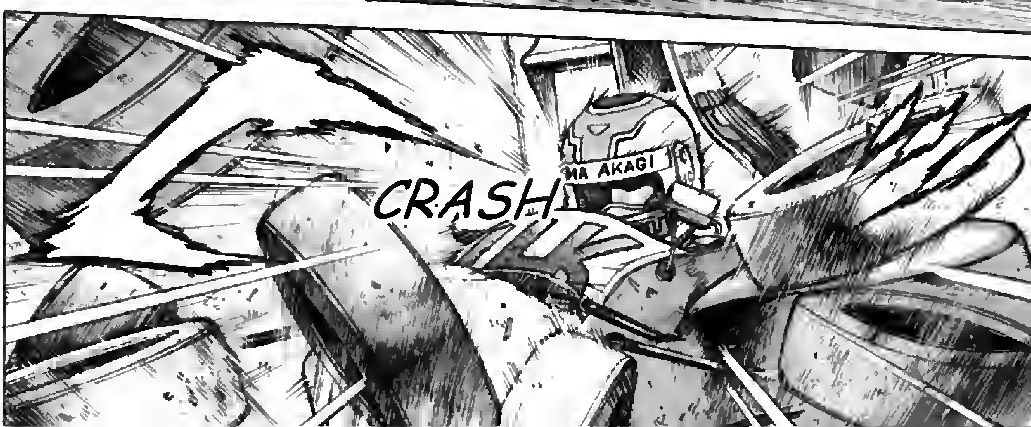


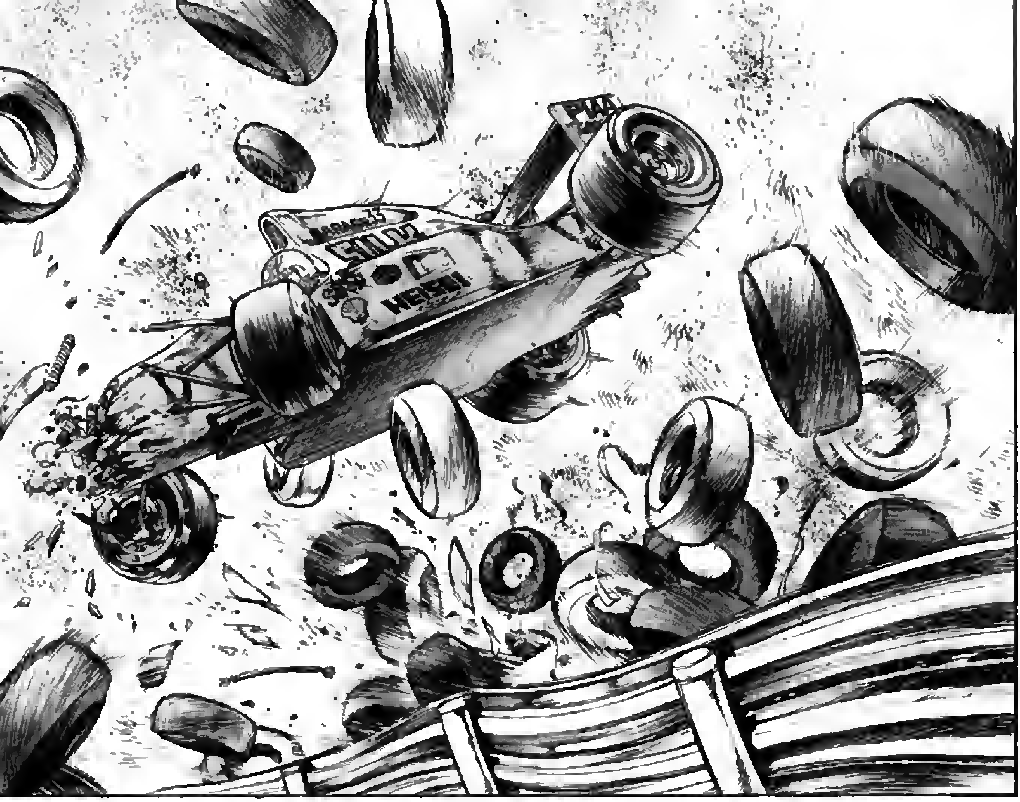


Chapter 11 : The Plunge

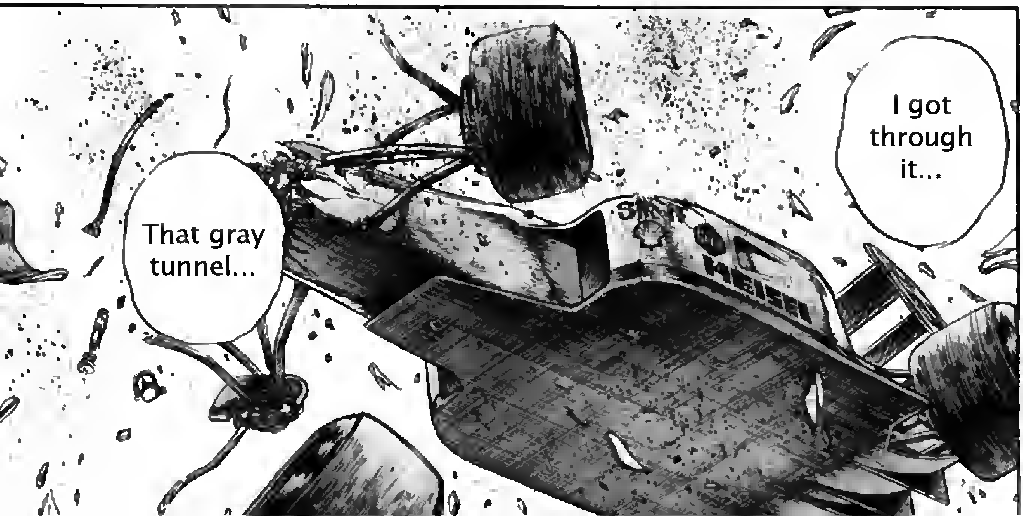
Oh, no! Gunma Akagi has flown off the track as he tried to enter the chicane at the end of the straight at high speed!


WHAM
SUK


CRASH
MA AKAGI



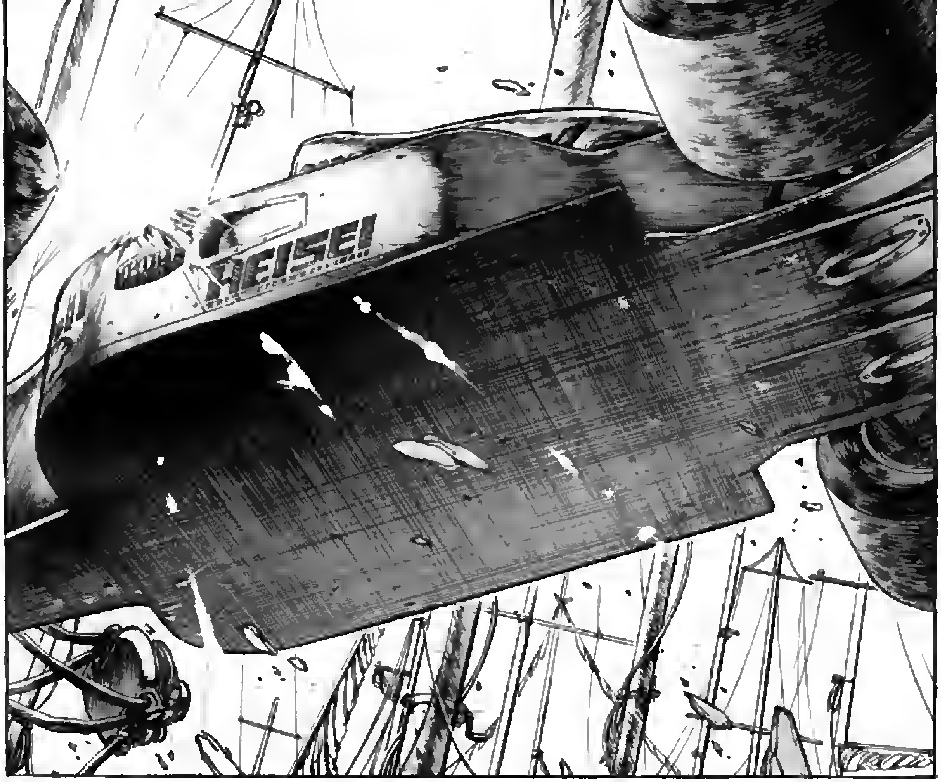
Don't go!
G... Gunma!

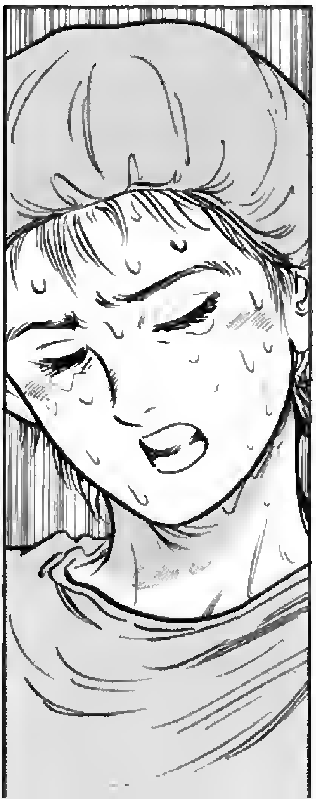
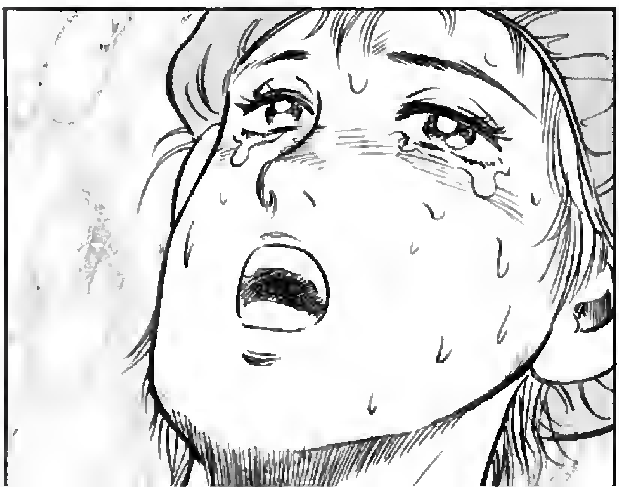

That gray tunnel...
I got through it...

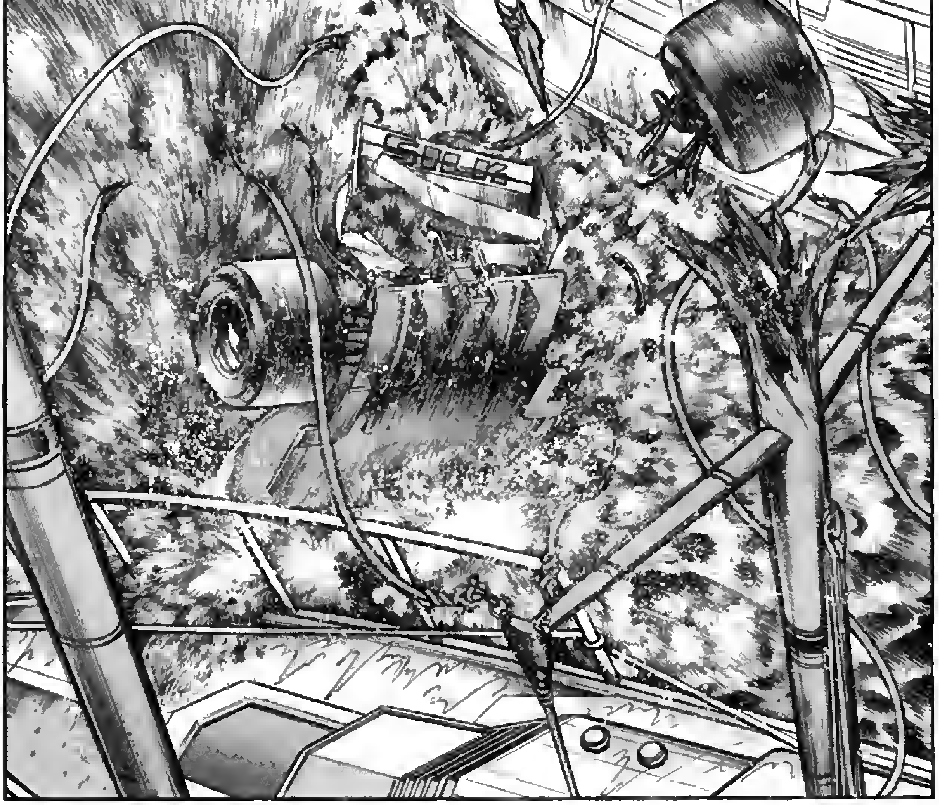
SKRSH
Marlboro

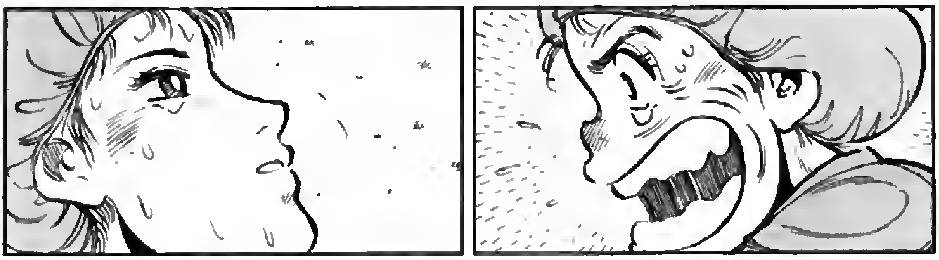
SKRSH

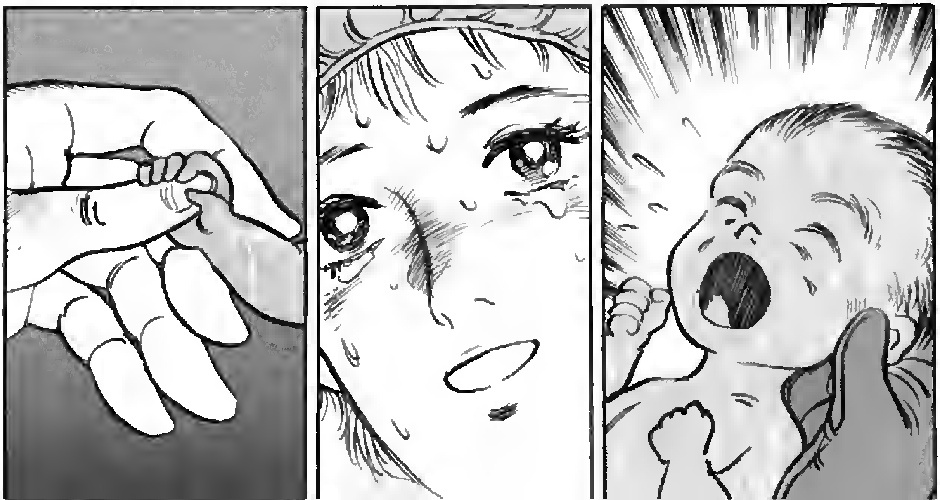
Marlboro

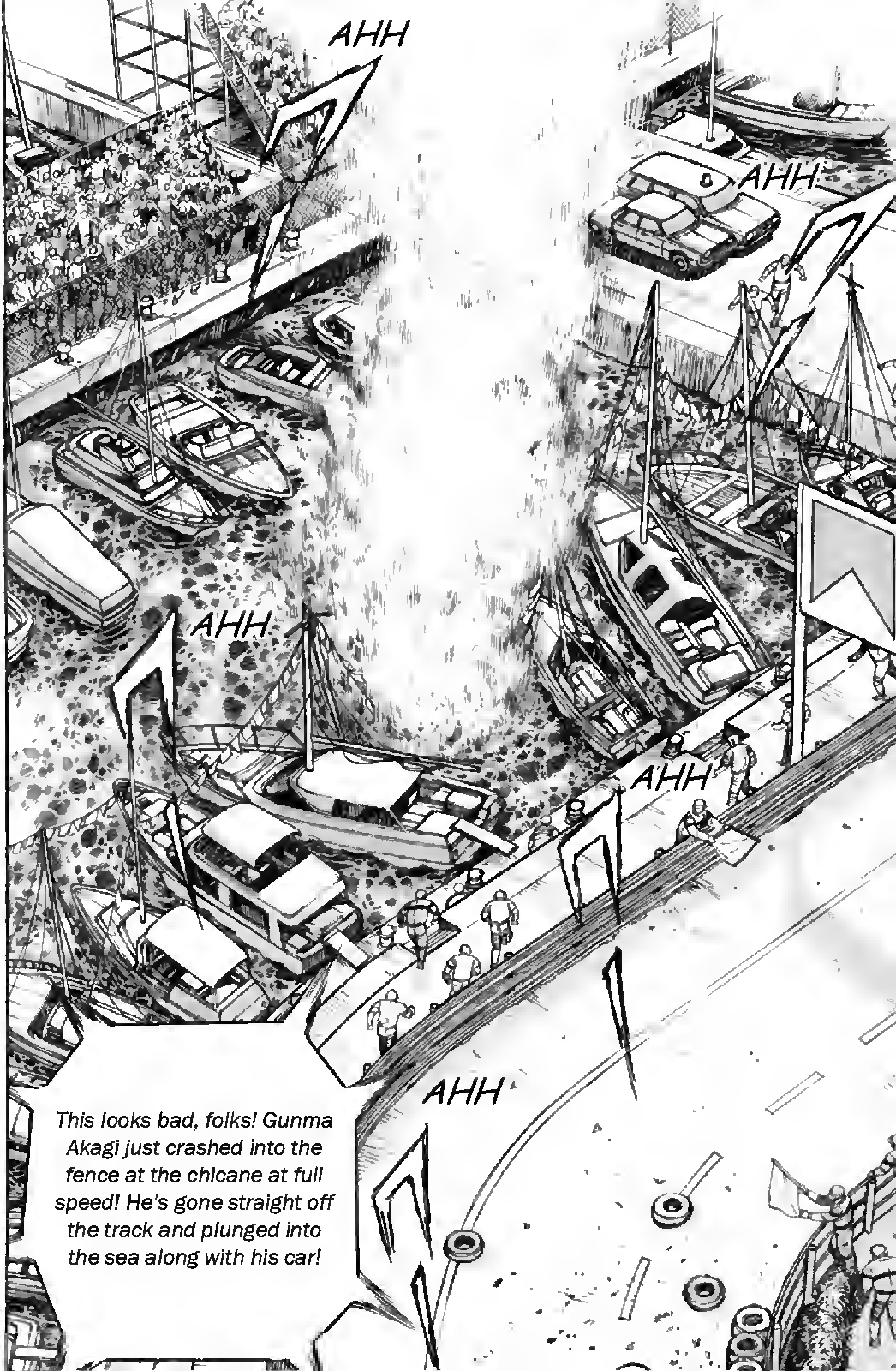

KEISEI

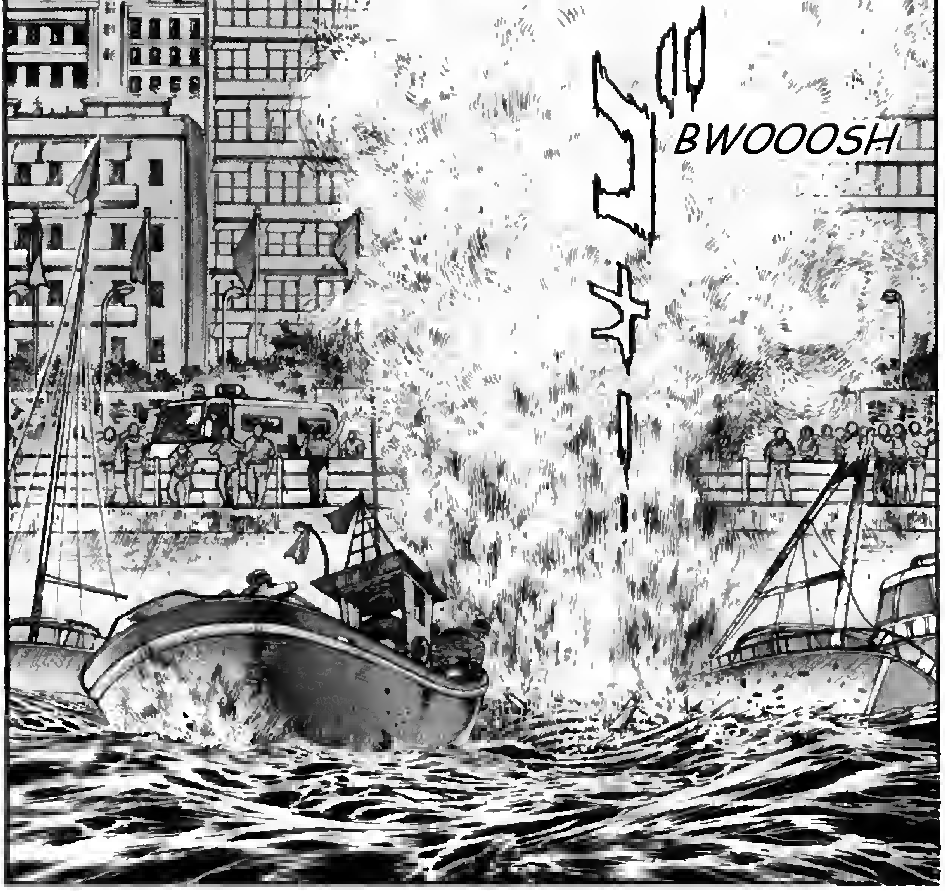



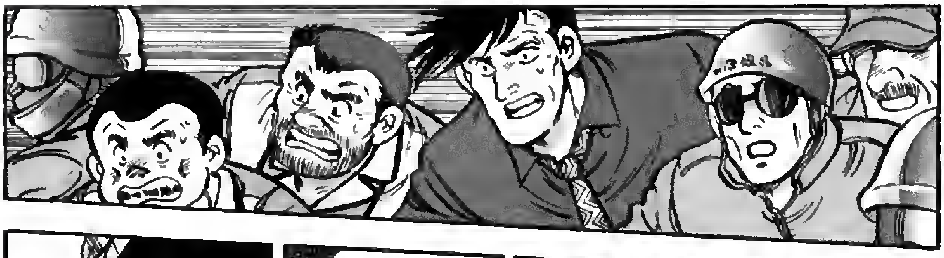







AHH
AHH
AHH
AHH
AHH
This looks bad, folks! Gunma Akagi just crashed into the fence at the chicane at full speed! He's gone straight off the track and plunged into the sea along with his car!

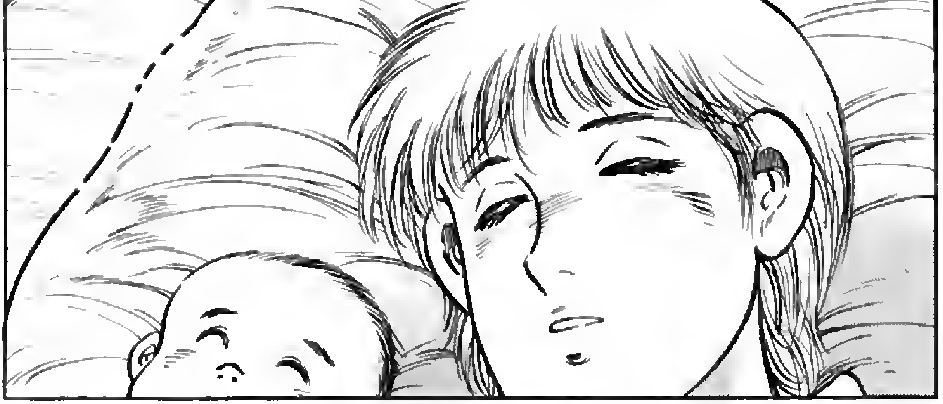

BWOOOSH

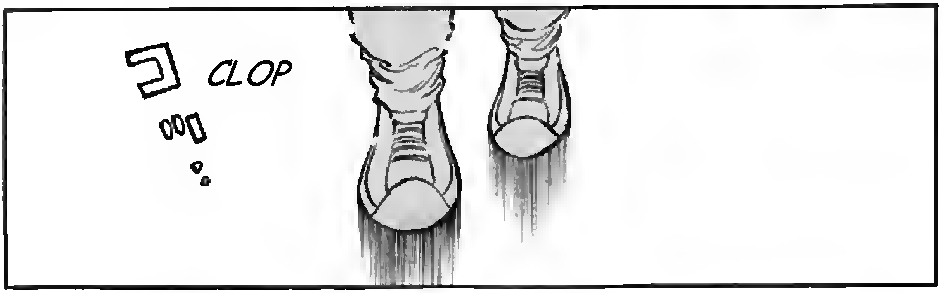


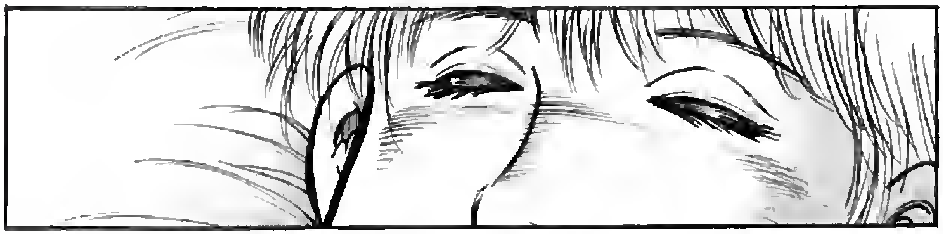
Gun-
ma!!!
N...No way...

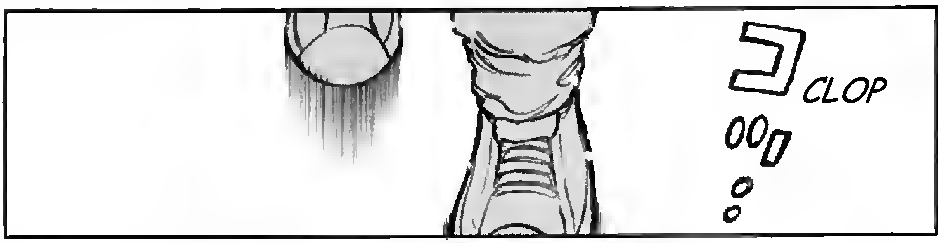
Whew...
KACHUK
CLOP
...

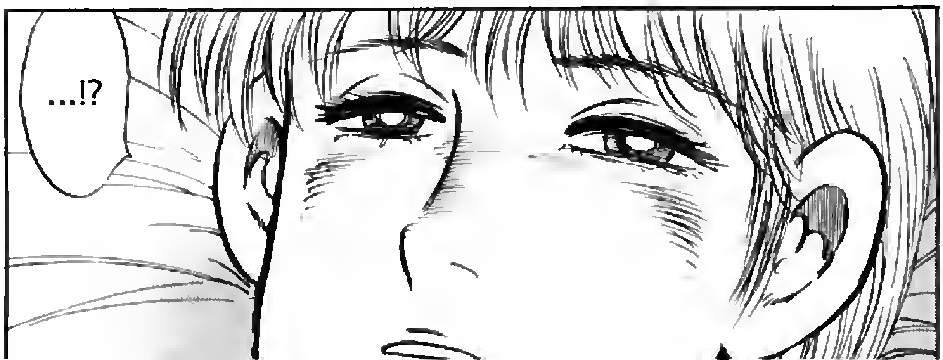
I... I just got a call...
CLOP

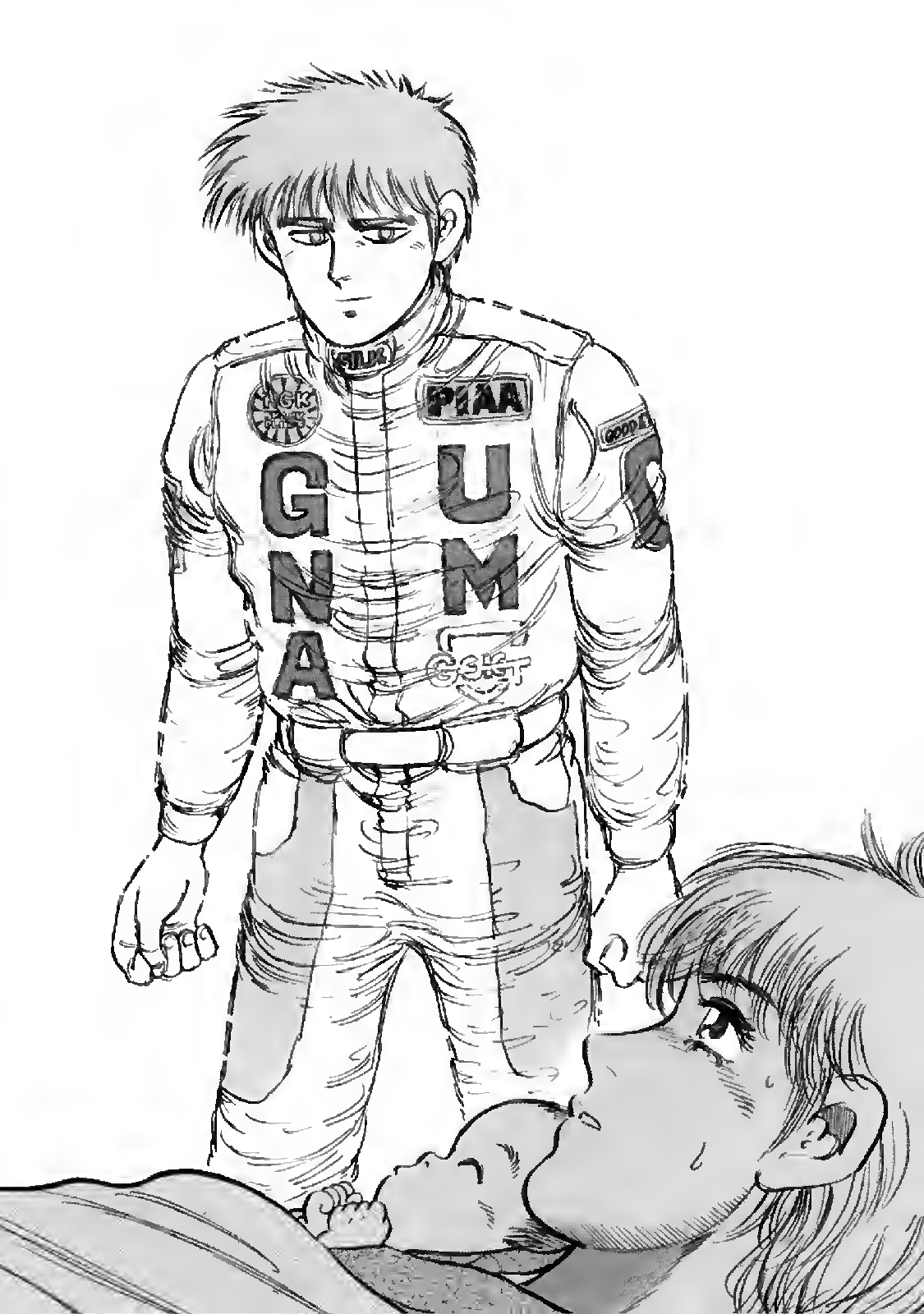


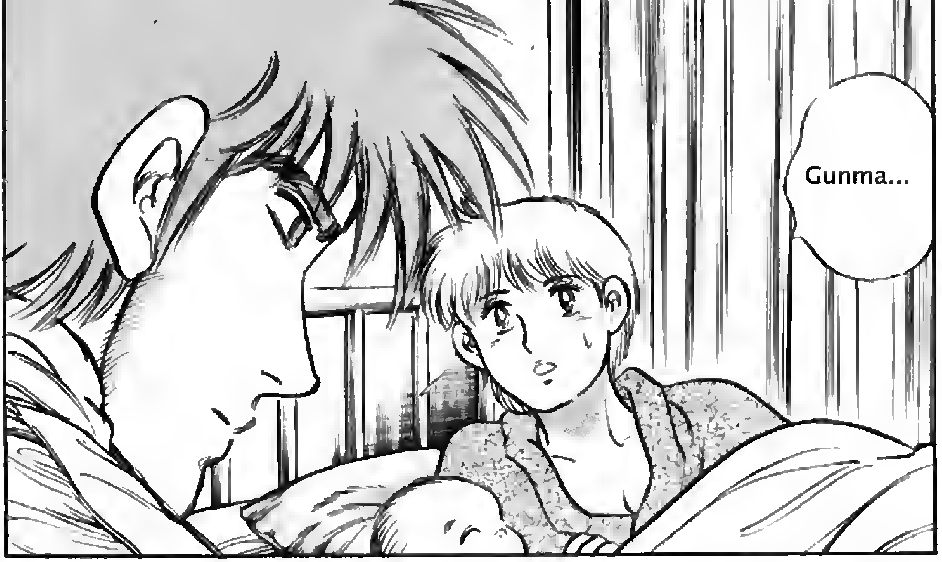

CLOP

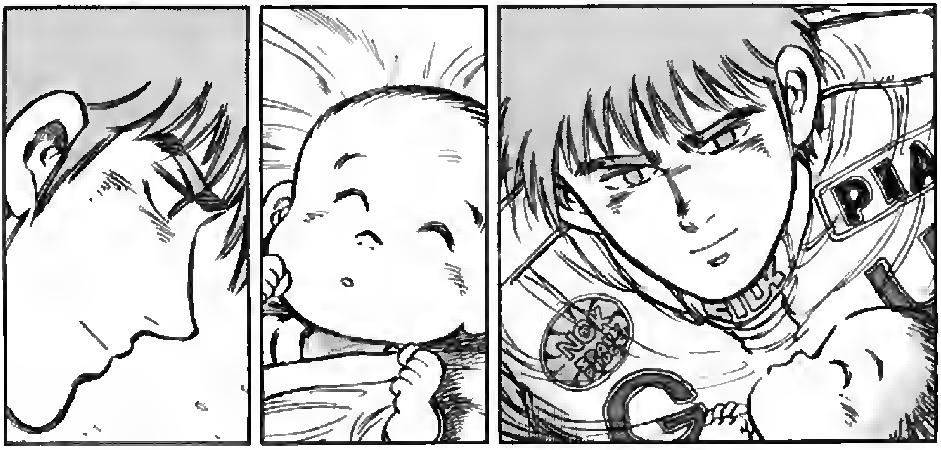


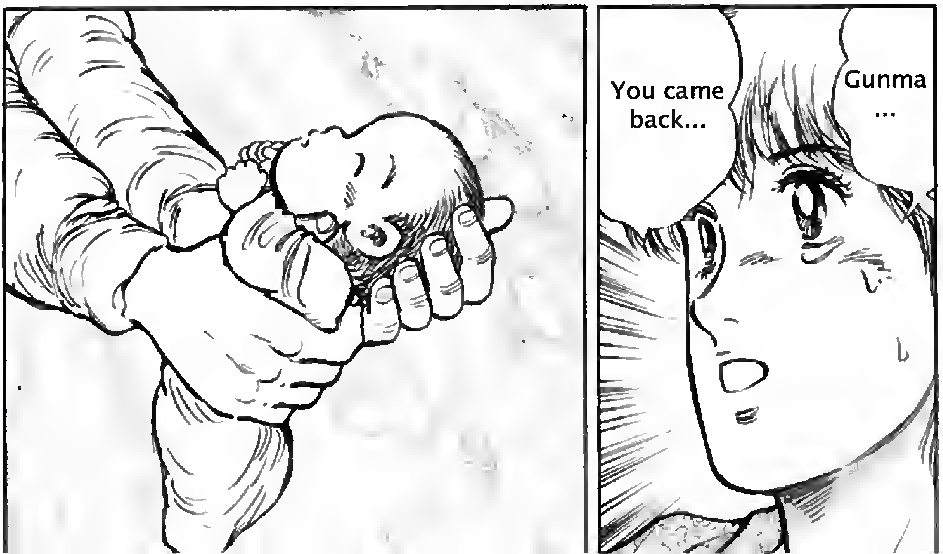

CLOP

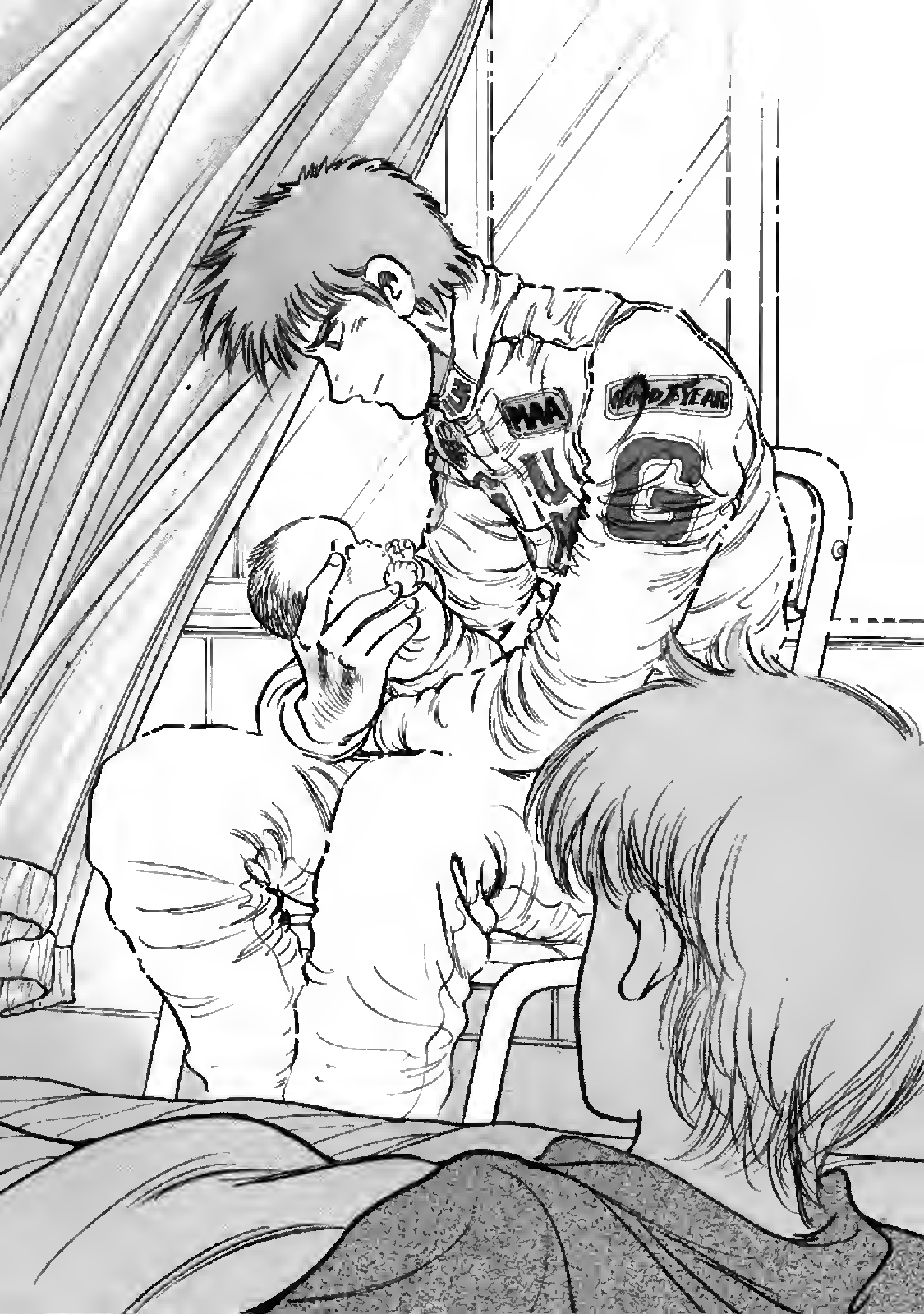

...!?


NGK
PIAA
GUNA
GSX-R

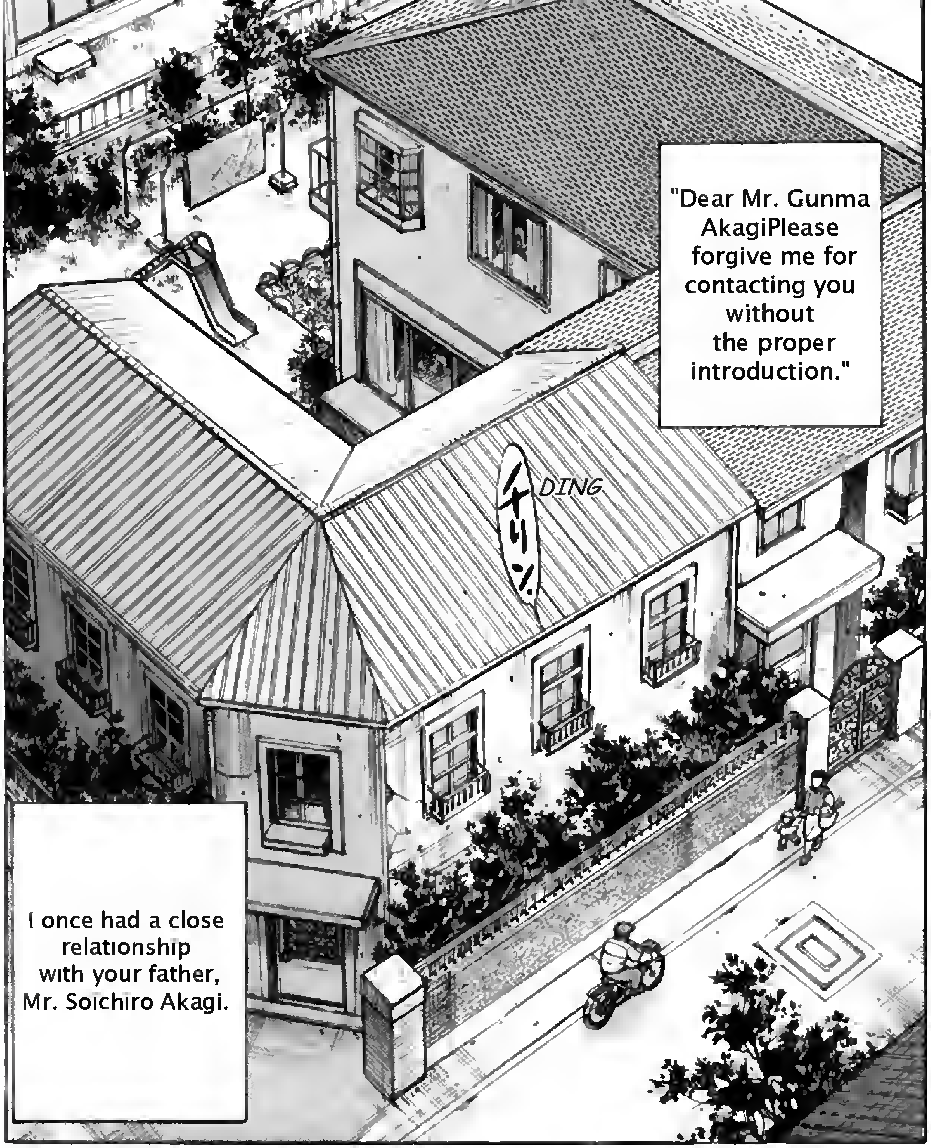

Gunma...

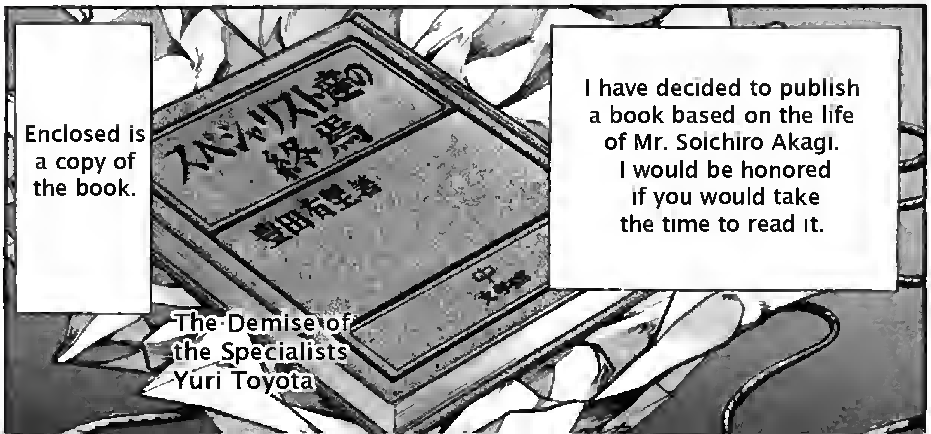


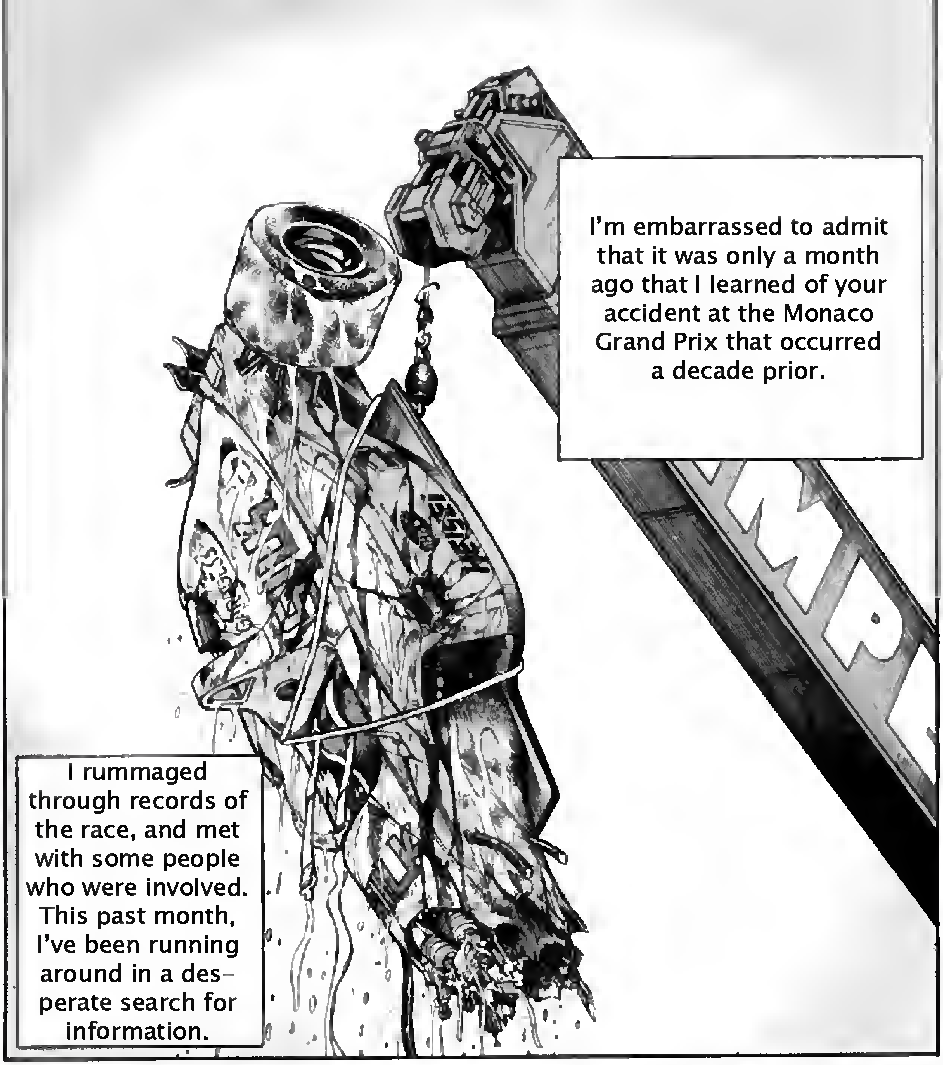

You came back...
Gunma ...


PMA
GOODYEAR

Chapter 12:
A New Beginning


"Dear Mr. Gunma AkagiPlease forgive me for contacting you without the proper introduction."
DING
I once had a close relationship with your father, Mr. Soichiro Akagi.

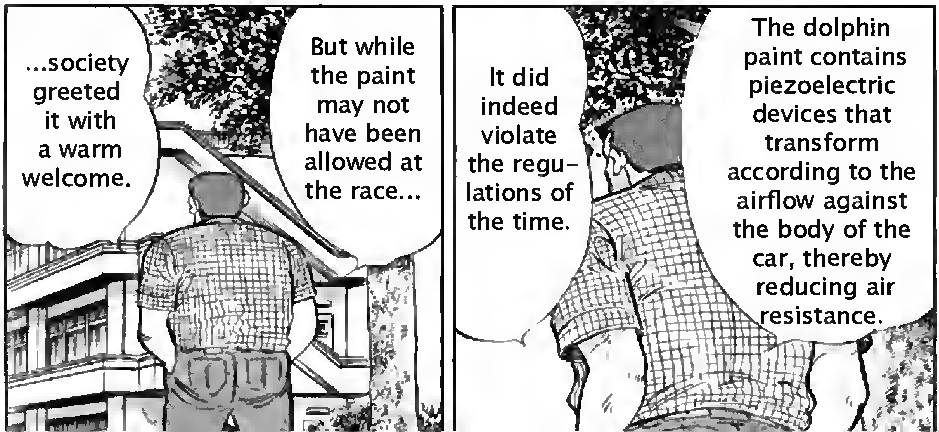

I have decided to publish a book based on the life of Mr. Soichiro Akagi. I would be honored if you would take the time to read it.
Enclosed is a copy of the book.
The Demise of the Specialists
Yuri Toyota

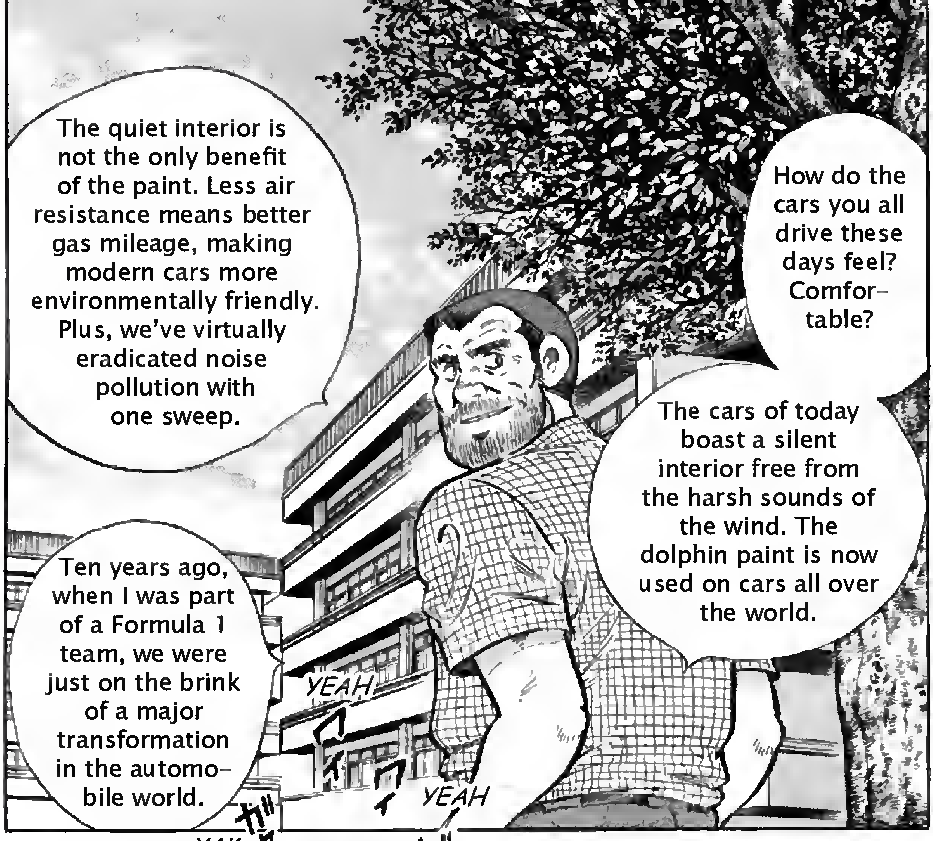

I'm embarrassed to admit that it was only a month ago that I learned of your accident at the Monaco Grand Prix that occurred a decade prior.
I rummaged through records of the race, and met with some people who were involved. This past month, I've been running around in a desperate search for information.

I'm sorry for prying into your past without your permission.

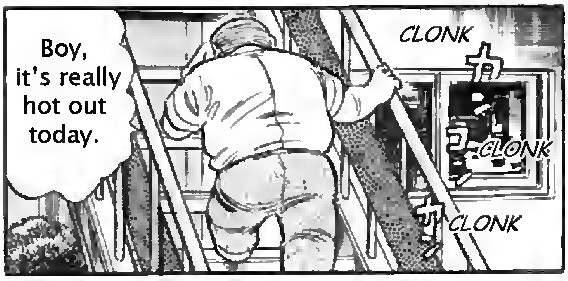
You didn't forfeit, you were disqualified.
You were disqualified at the Monaco Grand Prix.

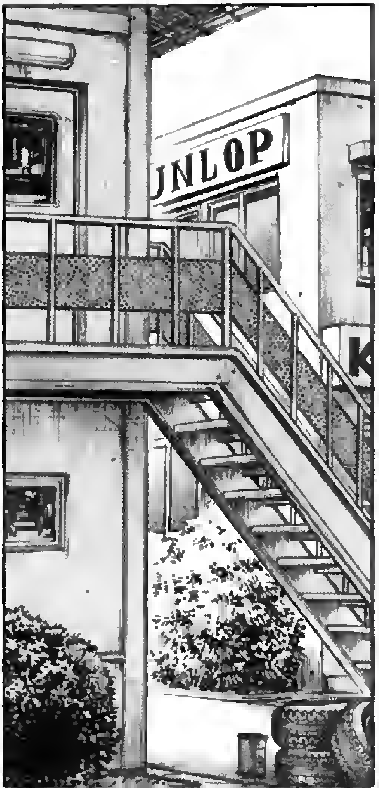
As it turns out, the dolphin paint was deemed a device that controlled aerodynamics, and regulations at the time did not allow such devices.
That's right. Disqualified.
They said we violated regulations.


...society greeted it with a warm welcome.
But while the paint may not have been allowed at the race...
It did indeed violate the regulations of the time.
The dolphin paint contains piezoelectric devices that transform according to the airflow against the body of the car, thereby reducing air resistance.

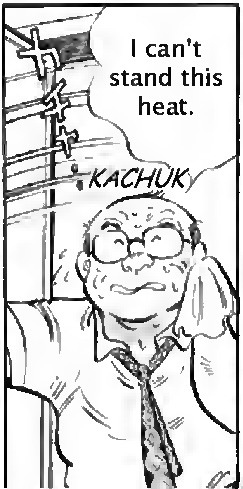

How do the cars you all drive these days feel? Comfortable?
The quiet interior is not the only benefit of the paint. Less air resistance means better gas mileage, making modern cars more environmentally friendly. Plus, we've virtually eradicated noise pollution with one sweep.
The cars of today boast a silent interior free from the harsh sounds of the wind. The dolphin paint is now used on cars all over the world.
Ten years ago, when I was part of a Formula 1 team, we were just on the brink of a major transformation in the automobile world.
YEAH
YEAH
YAK
YAK
YAK
However, thanks to the dolphin paint... or rather, thanks to the man behind its invention, Tamotsu, and the man who tested the paint's effectiveness, Gunma...
Back then, due to concerns about climate change, people were beginning to have doubts about our use of automobiles—even when it came to motorsports.
That's right. He...
Gunma ... Well...
Huh? Gunma...?
...sports have once again demonstrated their true purpose of improving the lifestyle and consciousness of mankind!

ゴォォ
FROOAR
I guess he just wanted to become a grown man...

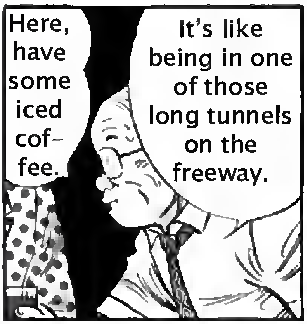

Boy, it's really hot out today.
CLONK
CLONK
CLONK

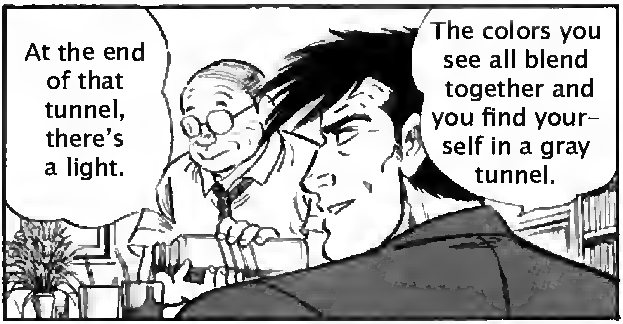

UNLOP

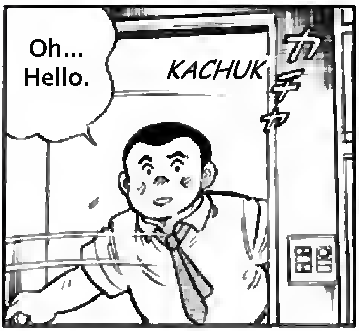
It was hot ten years ago at Monaco, too.


I can't stand this heat.
KACHUK

Your field of vision becomes extremely narrow, and the world around you seems to melt.
...you're in some real trouble.
And when you're driving at nearly 400 km/h...


Here, have some iced cof-fee.
It's like being in one of those long tunnels on the freeway.

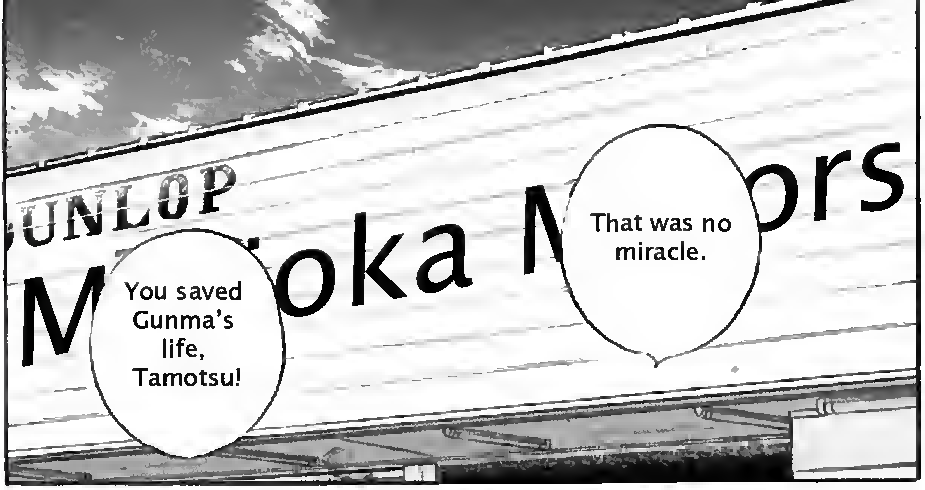

At the end of that tunnel, there's a light.
The colors you see all blend together and you find your-self in a gray tunnel.

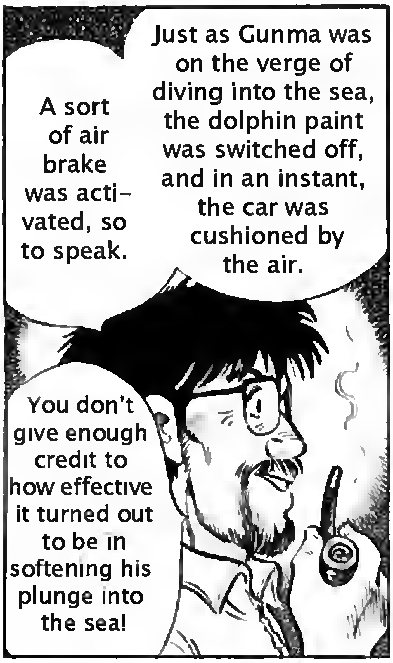

Oh... Hello.
KACHUK

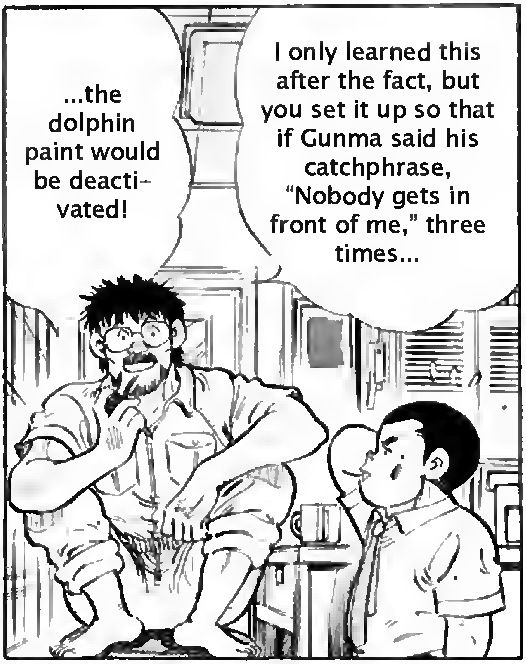
He wanted to hear about that fateful day.

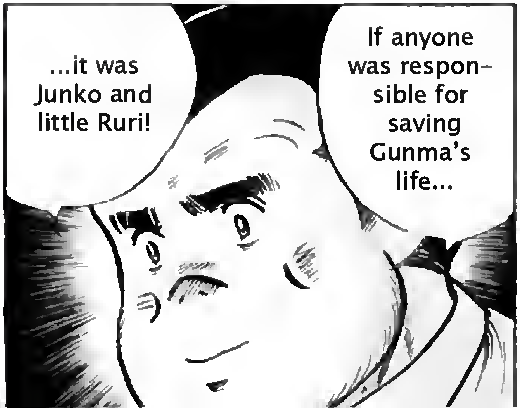
...that tunnel is a sort of birth canal.
This is just my own interpretation of things, but...
Everyone had to go through that tunnel in order to set foot in this world. Heh heh heh...

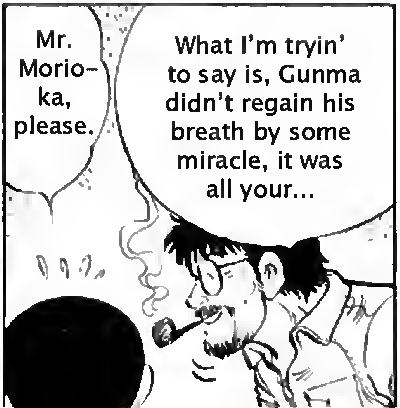
When we pulled him out of the water, he wasn't breathing, and his heart had already stopped.
...and everyone thought he was done for.
His face was white as a ghost...
I guess I can't say it was unexpected of Gunma, but...
He just jumped right off the circuit, into the sea.
Aww man, well, it was a shock to say the least.
Miraculously, he started breathing again. Then, he grinned, and said this...
Gunma!
"I just held Ruri in my arms..."


UNLOP
ors
You saved Gunma's life, Tamotsu!
That was no miracle.


A sort of air brake was activated, so to speak.
Just as Gunma was on the verge of diving into the sea, the dolphin paint was switched off, and in an instant, the car was cushioned by the air.
You don't give enough credit to how effective it turned out to be in softening his plunge into the sea!


...the dolphin paint would be deactivated!
I only learned this after the fact, but you set it up so that if Gunma said his catchphrase, "Nobody gets in front of me," three times...


...it was Junko and little Ruri!
If anyone was responsible for saving Gunma's life...

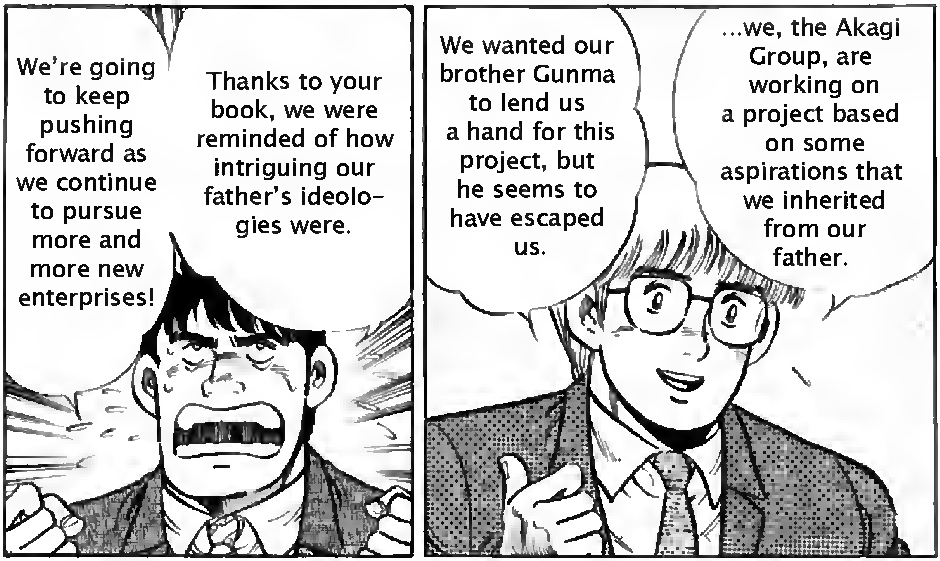

Mr. Morioka, please.
What I'm tryin' to say is, Gunma didn't regain his breath by some miracle, it was all your...

CHEEP
CHEEP
Not to mention the catchphrase Gunma always said to keep himself going!
小森荘

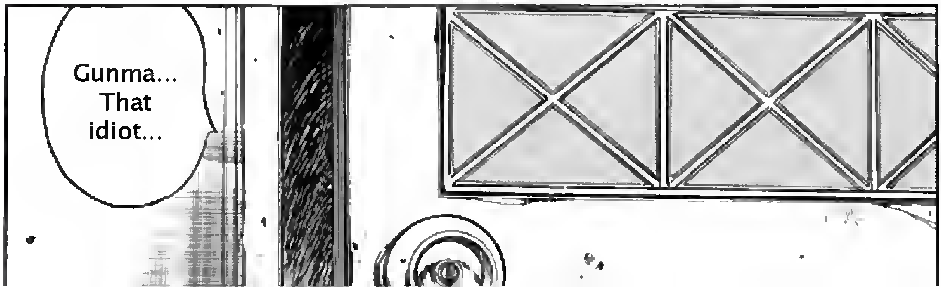
Well if it isn't...
Huh!?

We'll come by again some-time.
Thank you for having us over.

Today ...
I got a chance to read your book! It was really something!
Is everything going well with Carlo?
It's been quite a while. When did you get back to Japan,


We're going to keep pushing forward as we continue to pursue more and more new enterprises!
Thanks to your book, we were reminded of how intriguing our father's ideologies were.
We wanted our brother Gunma to lend us a hand for this project, but he seems to have escaped us.
...we, the Akagi Group, are working on a project based on some aspirations that we inherited from our father.

I'll be sure to visit you and Carlo's new baby soon! Keep up all your good work!
Nobody gets in front of us! Hah hah...


Gunma... That idiot...

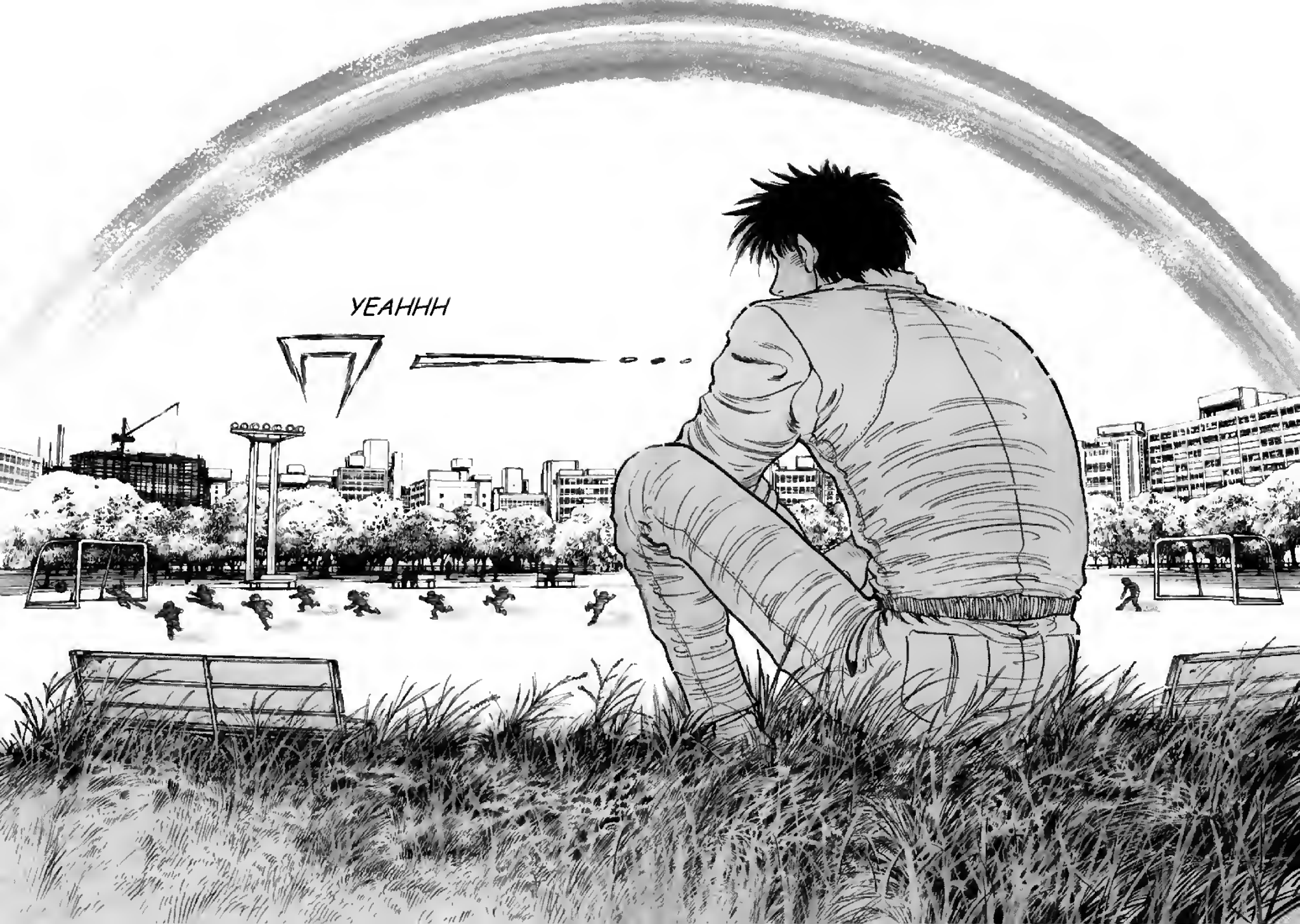
Are you... Ms. Yuri Toyota by any chance?
And who are you?
Auntie... We have a visitor.
Why is Gunma refusing to see those two!?
He pities me...
That Gunma...
He's got a house in England, and Orman needs him for his project.
But he refuses! Even Tamotsu's still hanging around here!
They're like barnacles!
...so he's tryin' to be nice and build a house right in the back yard of Komori Manor.
I've got one foot in my casket...
He refuses to leave Japan.

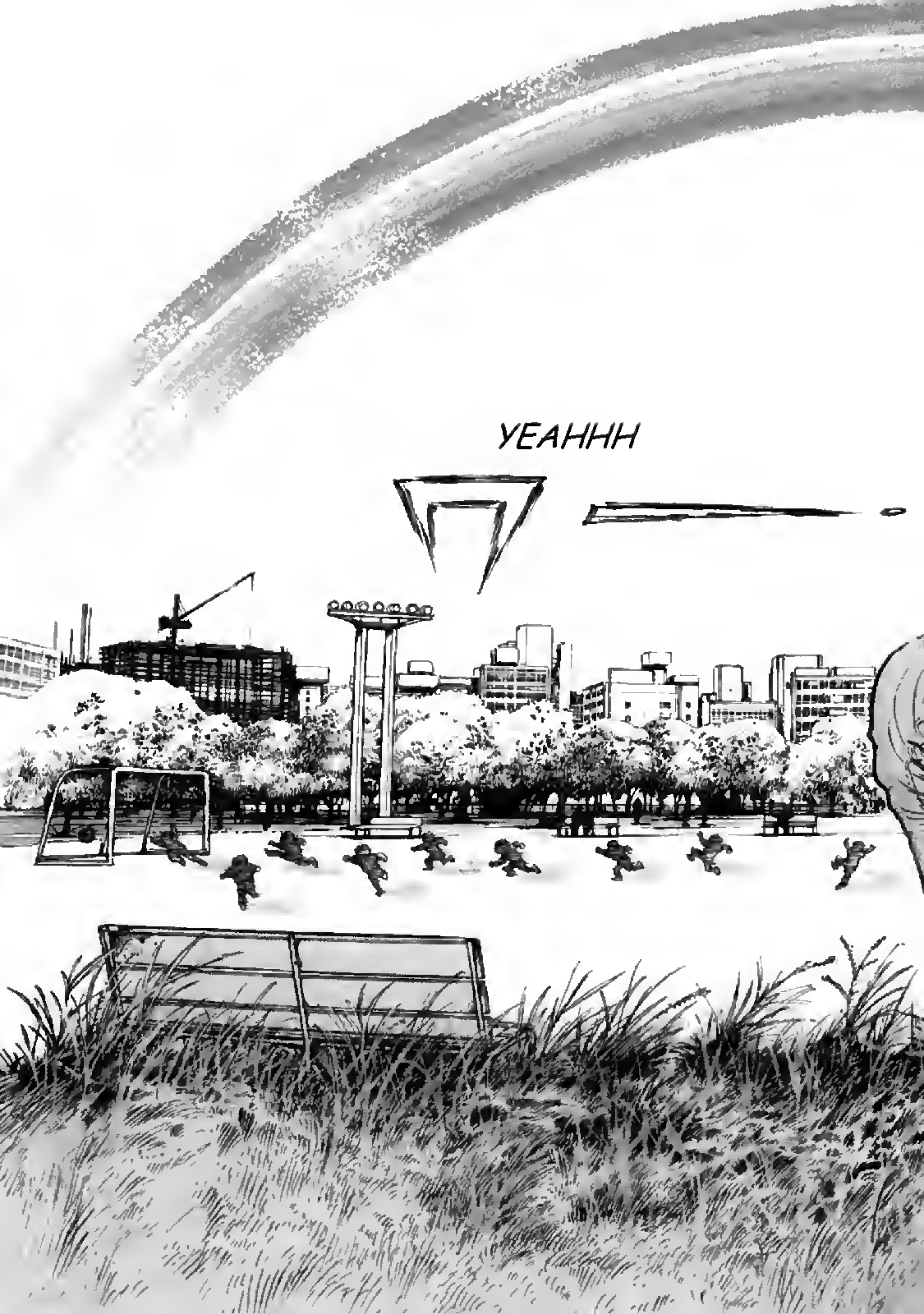
Plus, Gunma has a close relationship with Mr. Morioka...
And Tamotsu is really passionate about helping Mr. Kuroi run his company.
He just wants to raise Ruri here in Japan.
Now that's not fair, auntie.
Would you like to come see him?
Did he even drop by Morioka Motors before he came home? Was he there? He wasn't, was he? See, what did I tell ya!?
You say that, but I say he's been way too flaky!
Don't worry, Auntie.
Junko! Don't forget to get the groceries!
You want to know why he quit racing?
Hm?

"Gunma isn't driving, he's living the race." It was something like that.
Once upon a time, a man named Jesus said this about him...
I'm not quite sure what to tell you.
It might have just been a matter of his way of life.
He's really into soccer these days.
YEAH
Ruri is really starting to resemble him more and more.
A bit out of hand, sometimes.

KERBLAM
Nobody gets in the way of my shot!

Tsk. Dumb kid...


YEAHHH


YEAHHH

Acknowledgments
I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all who've helped me complete this series, including my staff for all of their efforts, the various publications and magazines that allowed me to use their material for reference, and last but not least, all the readers who've supported me along the way.
July 1992 Rokuda Noboru

"F" THE END

F VOL.28

Author
ROKUDA NOBORU

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First e-book edition-September 2015

Publisher
Creek & River Co., Ltd
C&R Group Bldg.,
2-10-9, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Japan 102-0083

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